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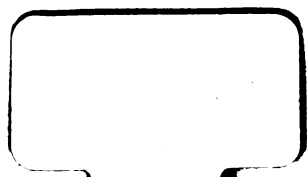
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ENGA-BANTU  
GRAMMAR



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# MACKEY'S GRAMMAR

OF THE

## BENGA-BANTU LANGUAGE.

REVISED BY

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## P R E F A C E .

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RECOGNIZING that the task assigned me by the Mission was a revision, and not a new book, I have followed the order of the parts of speech as arranged in Mr. Mackey's Grammar. ("A Grammar of the Benga Language," by Rev. James L. Mackey, New York, 1855.) But on many points I have made additions, enlarging and illustrating it. There are some alterations, but few corrections. The chief additions have been to the Noun and to the Verb: to the latter of which a correction is made in the form taken as typical of the Passive Voice. The effort is made also to have the orthography consistent, by recognizing and calling into use the vocal coalescences so prominent in the Bantu languages.

Acknowledgment is made to Tregelles' "Heads of Hebrew Grammar" for some suggestions and one or two quotations.

But almost all the additions or alterations are from my own notes and suggestions, extending over many years and made at various times in conferences with different native assistants, and from original deductions and inferences in intervals of study.



As giving succinctly the distinguishing features of the Bantu Family, to which the Benga belongs, the following copious extracts are made from Hovelacque, who, in his "Science of Language" ("The Science of Language, Linguistics, Philology, Etymology," by Abel Hovelacque. Translated by A. H. Keane, B. A. London: Clapham & Hall, 193 Piccadilly, 1877. Chap. 4, pp. 44-58 et seq.), arranges all forms of articulate speech into three groups:

A. The Monosyllabic, Isolating Languages, e. g., Chinese.

B. The Agglutinating, or Agglomerative.

C. The Inflective, e. g., Hebrew.

"Of all known languages, those that by their form belong to this second (B) class are by far the most numerous. Beyond all manner of doubt they belong to a great many stocks, very distinct, independent, and incapable of being reduced to a common source. . . . While in the idioms of the first (A) class (Isolating: Chinese, Siamese, etc.) the words are invariably monosyllabic forms, following each other without the least fusion or connection, and each retaining its proper force, in those of the second (B) category, many elements are placed in close association, in a way agglutinating, or agglomerating together, whence their name of "Agglutinating Languages." Of these diverse elements, one alone contains the leading idea, the main thought

or conception, the others losing their independent value altogether. They certainly still retain a personal or individual sense, but this is now entirely relative. . . . In any case, let us state at once that in the agglutinating tongues there is no true declension or conjugation; the use of these terms, as well as of the corresponding words *case*, *nominative*, *accusative*, *genitive*, and so on, . . . is merely a conventional way of expressing oneself, not perhaps to be absolutely condemned, but yet to be taken with great reserve. . . .

“Section 1 of the Agglutinating languages is the *South African*. (By ‘South African,’ as here used, is understood the languages of the Hottentots and of the Bushmen only.) Subdivisions: (1) Hottentot; (2) Bushmen.

“Section 2. *Languages of the African Negroes*: (1) Woloff, Senegal; (2) Mandingo Group, Senegambia; (3) Felup Group, Gambia; (4) Sonrai (Southeast of Timbuctoo); (5) Hausa, east of Niger; (6) Bornu, west of Lake Chad; (7) Kru Group, Grebo, Bassa; (8) Ewe Group, Yoruba, Akra.

“Section 3. *The Bantu or Kafir Family*, occupies a wide domain, roughly comprising the whole of the southeast of the continent, reaching southwards to the neighborhood of the Cape, and northwards a little beyond the Equator, where it meets the Ethiopian group of the Hamitic family, and the dialects of the negroes of Guinea, thus spreading

north and south over about one-half of the whole continent.

“About one-fourth of the natives of Africa speak the various dialects of this family. These are very numerous, and are all derived from one common source, which . . . . is far from being the case with the languages spoken by the negro tribes in the centre and west of the continent. The mother-tongue of this great family is utterly unknown, but it may possibly yet be restored in all its essential grammatical and lexical features.

“The general name of Kafir, often given to the Bantu family, is purely conventional. The word, which is Arabic and means *infidel*, was at first applied to all the tribes of Southeast Africa, but was gradually limited, until it has now come to be restricted to those stretching from the northeast of Cape Colony to Delagoa Bay. Hence it cannot with propriety be any longer applied to such languages as the Ki-Suaheli, spoken in Zanzibar, or to the Fernandian, in the Gulf of Guinea.

“The term Bantu is in every way preferable. It is the plural of a word meaning *man*; has the sense of men, population, people, and may readily be extended to the language itself.

“The phonetic system of the whole family is one of the richest, nor is it lacking in harmony. As a rule, words are modified, not by suffixing, but by prefixing the various elements of relationship.

“It is divided into three great branches, a Western, a Central, and an Eastern, each of which is again subdivided into a number of minor groups. They are thus classified by Fr. Müller and Hahn:—*Eastern Branch*: languages of the Zanzibar district; languages of the Zambesi; Zulu-Kafir group. *Central Branch*: Sechuana and Tegeza. *Western Branch*: Kongo, Herero, etc. . . .

“On the West or Atlantic coast, we find the Bantu system less prevalent than on the East coast. Northwards it stretches four or five degrees beyond the Equator, thus bordering on the languages of the negroes proper.

“The *northern* division of this western branch comprises the dialects of *Fernando Po*, *Isubu*, *Benga*, *Mpongwe*, *Dikele*, and *Kongo*, which last is the most important of the group.

“More to the south are the *Bunda* (in Angola), *Benguela*, *Londa*, and *Herero*, about 19 degr. south latitude, and reaching southwards as far as the Hot-tentot-Namaqua dialect . . .

“The phonetics of the BANTU family call for no particular remark, except that the vowels are liable to contraction, to euphonic suppressions, and to other rather numerous variations, but always in accordance with well-determined principles. In this respect the Kafir idioms are more refined than many other agglutinating tongues, instances occurring in them of true vowel harmony, that is, of the

vowel of one syllable assimilating to that of another in the same word.

“The consonantal system seems somewhat complex, owing to the great number of double consonants, whose first element is a nasal; nt, nd, mp, etc.

“On the other hand, we again meet here with some of the click letters of the Hottentot phonetics. The Kafirs seem to have borrowed them from their Hottentot neighbors, as they occur in those Kafir dialects only that border on the Hottentot domain, as, for instance, in those of the Zulu branch. The farther we proceed from this neighborhood, the less frequent these letters become; hence they do not occur at all in Mpongwe or Benga . . . The number of other consonants is very considerable. They are subject to fixed euphonic laws, and interchange regularly between the various members of the Bantu family, a great many of such coincidences being already well known and determined. (Bleek: ‘A Comparative Grammar of South African Languages.’ London, 1869.) . . . All these languages have this in common, that the word is built up by elements not suffixed, but prefixed to the principal root. Of these prefixes, some denote the singular, others the plural. . . . These various formative prefixes of course differ in the various idioms of the Bantu family, but they all nevertheless derive from older common forms. At some unknown period there

existed a common Bantu tongue, which subsequently broke up into different dialects, all characterized by special euphonic laws. Hence the various prefixes of this primitive speech were naturally modified in the various idioms derived from it . . .

“Subjoined is a table of the singular and plural forms of the word ‘Bantu’ in some of the languages in question :

	Singular.	Plural.
Ki-Suaheli	mtu	watu
Ki-Nika	mutu	atu
Ki-Kamba	mundu	andu
Ki-Sambala	muntu	wantu
Ki-Hiau	mundu	vandu
Sena	muntto	vanttu
Makua	mütü	attu
Kafir	umntu	abantu
Zulu	umuntu	abantu
Sehlapu	mothu	bathu
Sesuto	motu	batu
Tegeza	amuno	vano
Herero	omundu	ovandu
Sindonga	umtu	vantu
Nano	omuno	omano
Angola	omutu	oatu
Kongo	omuntu	oantu
Benga	moto	bato
Dualla	motu	batu

“The adjective is formed with the same deriva-

tive element as the noun it qualifies, or, if there be a difference, it is at least very slight. Thus, 'něně' in Benga being *great*, and the word 'elombo,' *thing*, being 'belombo' in the plural, 'elombo eněně,' *great thing*; 'belombo beněně,' *great things*. In a word, the adjective necessarily agrees, even in its formation, with its noun. Thus the word 'něně,' *great*, may, in a sentence, have four or five different prefixes, if it happen to be repeated so many times, as qualifying só many words also formed by means of those prefixes. This process is common to all the members of the Bantu family, whence the title of 'alliteral' languages which has been given them.

"The methods which express the relations of mood and tense seem, at first sight, somewhat intricate, but are really quite simple, consisting, as is usual in agglutinating tongues, in tacking independent particles on to the principal root. But, as already stated, the special feature of the Bantu family is the formation of words by means of prefixes, hence the secondary elements are here placed, not after, but before, the chief radical."

TABLE SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE BENGA DIALECT IN THE BANTU FAMILY OF LANGUAGES.

B. Agglutinating Languages.

| 1st. South African. 2d. African Negro. 3d. Bantu. |

| 1. Western Branch. 2. Central Branch. 3. Eastern Branch. |

| (1) Northern Division. (2) Southern Division. |

| (a) Isubu. (b) Benga. (c) Mpongwe. (d) Dikéle. (e) Fañ. (f) Kongo, etc. |





# BENGA GRAMMAR.

## ORTHOGRAPHY.

### ALPHABET.

THE sounds used in the Benga language may all be expressed by the following signs :

a, â, b, d, e, ě, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, s, t, u, v, w, y.

In the adjacent Kombe and Mpongwe tribes, **r** is a very prevalent sound. Also **ch**, **sh**, and **zh**, represented respectively by **ty**, **sy**, and **zy**.

### VOWELS.

The vowels are four short, a, e, ě, i; and three long, â, o, u.

a	sounded as a in far,	e. g., kalaka, speak thou.
â	“ a law,	“ tândákâ, love thou.
e	“ e they,	“ enâ, arm.
ě	“ e met,	“ kwělěkě, chop thou.
i	“ i machine,	“ ipivia, thought.
o	“ o note,	“ ikogo, shoe.
u	“ oo moon,	“ itutu, smoke.

## DIPHTHONGS.

The diphthongs are formed by prefixing to any other vowel, long or short, the short vowel **a**.

## EXAMPLES.

ai	sounded as i in pine, e. g.,	Paia, my father.
ae	“ i “ “	těkae, this.
au	“ as ow in how, “	maupa, dewa.
ao	“ ow “ “	Paia-o, O my father.

## CONSONANTS.

The simple consonant sounds are expressed by b, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, s, t, v, w, y; each of these letters has one well-defined sound.

NOTE.—**g** is always hard; **y** preceded by **a** becomes a vowel, and the resultant combination is represented by the diphthong **ai**, e. g., mba yowě (spoken mbaiyowě), I do not know.

## COMBINED CONSONANTS.

There are some peculiar sounds which can only be expressed by combinations of consonants. These are found, for the most part, at the beginning of words.

## EXAMPLES.

	bw, as in	bwalo, canoe.
	mb, “	mboka, town.
	uj, “	njea, path.
	mw, “	mwanga, a garden.
	ng, “	ngowa, hog.
	kw, “	o kwělē, to chop.
Also,	ngw, “	langwě, father.
	mbw, “	mbwedi, captive.

These are nothing more, however, than the combined sounds of the component simple consonants, and are easily remembered and pronounced after being heard a few times. It may assist one beginning to allow a half-suppressed initial vowel sound, somewhat after the manner of a Hebrew vocal sh'va.

## EXAMPLES.

mboka, as if umboka.  
ngowa, " ingowa.

When **ng** appears in other than the first syllable of a word, its proper sound is not readily caught by most foreigners. Example: hangwě. The mistake is usually made of dividing the syllables as if they were thus, hang-we, precisely as in the English word "singer." But there is no such sound in Benga. (There is, most abundantly, in Mpongwe; and it is represented by the sign ñ). The proper sound for **ng** in Benga, as in Mpongwe also, may be readily obtained by noticing the nasal reduplication, of which one's own nose is conscious, in slowly and firmly pronouncing the English word "finger." The **ng** in hangwě will therefore be pronounced as if it were spelled in English, hang-ngwě, the **ng** being doubled after the manner of a Hebrew dagesh forte.

## CONTRACTIONS.

Invariably every Benga word ends in a vowel; many of them also begin with a vowel. Hence it

frequently happens that two vowels come together, one ending and one beginning a word. When this is the case, in most instances, either (1) one of the vowels is elided, or (2) a coalescence of the two occurs, forming a new sound.

EXAMPLES OF CONTRACTION BY ELISION.

	Kĕkĕ o uhĕkĕ, go to the beach.
Elided	Kĕk' o 'hĕkĕ.
	Vĕkĕ umba epokolo, give me a hat.
Elided	Vĕkĕ 'mba 'pokolo.

EXAMPLES OF CONTRACTION BY COALESCENCE.

Koho iitĕ, many parrots ; pronounced Koh' witĕ.  
 Ndabo eyamu, a good house ; " Ndab' weyam'.

Sometimes also there may be both elision and coalescence in the same word :—e. g., Ndabo eāvĕ, thy house, is first elided into ndabo 'āvĕ, and then coalesced into ndab' wāvĕ. But in our Benga books such instances of coalescence as ndabwāvĕ, though properly so pronounced, are not so written ; such phonetics would be inconsistent with the beautiful symmetry of the language. The words are written ndabo 'āvĕ, and the reader learns very readily to apply the coalescence by the following rules :

Rule 1st. When either of the three long vowels is final and followed by itself or any other vowel, long or short, the resultant sound is **w**.

EXAMPLES.

(1) A final long vowel followed by itself, Etākā 'āvĕ, thy family, pronounced etākwāvĕ.

(2) A final long vowel followed by a short vowel, Jamboiyam', a good affair, pronounced jambwiyam'.

(3) A final long vowel followed by another long vowel, Uplungu 'ävë, thy cave, pronounced uplungwävë.

Rule 2d. When either of the four short vowels (except **a**) is final and followed by another vowel, long or short, the resultant sound is **y**.

EXAMPLES.

<table style="border: none;"> <tr><td>e</td><td>a</td></tr> <tr><td>ë</td><td>â</td></tr> <tr><td>i</td><td>ë</td></tr> </table>	e	a	ë	â	i	ë	}	written	{	<table style="border: none;"> <tr><td>ea</td></tr> <tr><td>ëâ</td></tr> <tr><td>ië</td></tr> </table>	ea	ëâ	ië	}	pronounced	{	<table style="border: none;"> <tr><td>ya</td></tr> <tr><td>yâ</td></tr> <tr><td>yë</td></tr> </table>	ya	yâ	yë
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Exception (1), **a** before another short vowel, wherever located, becomes a diphthong **ai**, e. g., tēkae, this; mbambaë, truly; paia, father.

Exception (2), **a** before a long vowel, wherever located, becomes a diphthong **ou**; e. g., maupa, dew, as if moupa; Paia O! oh! my father, as if Païou.

There is no rule to indicate, in a given collision of any two vowels, in which of the two ways, elision or coalescence, the contraction shall occur. But a reader's ear soon learns from the harmony of the language what is the proper pronunciation in the case.

The chief difficulty is in understanding the words when spoken, the contractions being of such frequent occurrence. Sometimes a whole sentence is spoken as if it formed but one word; and it is difficult, without considerable knowledge of the language, to detect the words of which it is made up; e. g.,

E lě epokolo ea nja ekae? Whose hat is this? is spoken, Elěpokolanjakai?

There are also contractions caused by dropping of an entire syllable, e. g., mwana-mwajo, daughter (literally, woman-child), contracted, mwa'-mwajo; mbi valandi, I'm going; contracted, mb' 'alandi.

ACCENT.

The accent is almost always on the penult.

EXAMPLES.

I-*ka*-du, a hand; *ve*-kě, give; e-ja-nga-na-*ngv*-bo, a book; le-*va-ti-dě*, show.

Exception 1. Verbs followed by a monosyllabic objective.

EXAMPLE.

Vě*kě* 'mba, give me; Levakid'*mâ*, show him.

Here the accent is carried forward to the last syllables *kě* and *dě*. But indeed this exception is only apparent, and would disappear if the pronominal objectives 'mba and *mâ* were written, as in Hebrew, as suffixes to their verbs, thus; vě*kě*mba, le-*vakidě**mâ*.

Exception 2. The word beja, food, and perhaps a few others, like miba, water, and diba, marriage, seem to accentuate the last syllable.

## ETYMOLOGY.

## NOUNS.

Nouns have distinct forms to indicate their number and classification, but none to show their gender or case.

## NUMBER.

There are two numbers, the singular and the plural, indicated by their initial syllables.

1. But a large list of nouns has only one form to express both the singular and the plural, e. g., pavo, knife; pavo, knives; mbanja, a bamboo; mbanja, bamboos.

2. Some nouns have two forms for their plural, the singular remaining the same.

## EXAMPLES.

mboka, town	{ mboka mamboka }	{ towns
njea, path	{ njea manjea }	{ paths
ndabo, house	{ ndabo mandabo }	{ houses

3. The names of liquids and other nouns of quantity are always used in the plural form and take plural adjuncts, e. g., miba, water; mavule, oil; makândá, sap.

## CLASSIFICATION.

The classification of nouns depends upon the



manner in which they form their plurals and take their adjuncts.

1st. Nouns which form their plurals in a similar manner are arranged together in one class. These are found, without exception, to take similar adjuncts. There are thirteen modes of forming plurals in the language; so this rule, strictly adhered to, would lead to the formation of thirteen classes.

2d. But the number of classes may be reduced to eight, by uniting under a class all nouns whose singular takes like adjuncts, though their plurals may not be similarly formed.

The above and the meaning of the word adjunct, or "vinculum," will be clearly understood by comparing the tables of nouns and pronominal prefixes given under each class of nouns.

#### GENDER.

The natural gender is indicated by attaching to the noun the words momo, man, or mwajo, woman.

#### EXAMPLES.

	mwana-momo	} a man-child, i. e., a son.
(contracted)	mwa'-momo	
	mwana-mwajo	} a woman-child, i. e., a daughter.
(contracted)	mwa'-mwajo	

The form used to indicate the gender of irrational animals is different, e. g., momi mwa kuba, male of chicken, i. e., cock; mwadi mwa tomba, female of goat.

Inanimate objects have no gender.

CASE.

Subjects and objects are known, as in English, by their position in a sentence. But the possessive case is always preceded by a compound adjunctive particle which answers in signification to the preposition "of," e. g. :

ubâki mua Tonda. •  
 axe of Tonda, i. e., Tonda's axe.  
 ele ea buda.  
 tree of kuda, i. e., a kuda tree.

CLASSES OF NOUNS.

FIRST CLASS.

This very large class comprises all nouns commencing with **e** and **y**: the plural is formed by changing those letters into **be**.

EXAMPLES OF E.

	Singular.	Plural.
Hat	epokolo	bepokolo
Arm	enâ	benâ
Tree	ele	bele

EXAMPLES OF Y.

	Singular.	Plural.
Heat	yomu	beomu
A flat basket	yapa	beapa
A large family fetish	yâkâ	beâkâ
A peculiar-shaped boat	yalo	bealo
Yam	yoma	beoma

NOTE.—If, as the harmony of the language would allow, it were agreed to write this second list of ex-

amples thus: eoma, eapa, etc., the pronunciation would be unchanged, and this entire first class would then have for its initial letter only the letter e, with the single exception of the name for the Supreme Being, Anyambě, whose plural is beanyambě.

EXAMPLE OF ADJUNCT OF THE FIRST CLASS OF NOUNS.

Sing.	Tree of life, Ele	{ ea written ya }	'mĕnâ.
Plural	Trees of life, Bele	{ bea written bya }	'mĕnâ.

SECOND CLASS.

This class comprises all nouns beginning with **i**, **di**, and **j**. The plurals are formed by (1) changing the first syllable into **ma**; (2) by substituting for the initial letter the letter **m**.

EXAMPLES OF (1).

	Sing.	Plural.
Hand	ikadu	makadu
Shoulder	ibĕkĕ	mabĕkĕ
Egg	dikĕ	makĕ
Ear	ditâ	matâ
Door	jâmbe	mambe
Boil	jâlâ	malâ

EXAMPLES OF (2).

	Sing.	Plural.
Affair	jambo	mambo
Sun	joba	moba
Eye	dihâ	mihâ
Name	dina	mina
Fire-place	diyâ	miyâ

But there are some exceptions.

## EXAMPLES.

	Sing.	Plural.
Dew	jupa	maupa
Ten	jomu	mabo

NOTE 1. Under this second class are regularly inflected the cardinals from 2 to 5 inclusive.

ibale;	Two hands,	makadu	mabale
ilalo;	Three "	"	malalo
inai;	Four "	"	manai
itano;	Five "	"	matano

NOTE 2. Those nouns which are names of liquids and not used in the singular, belong to the plural of this class; e. g., milk, manyângá; rum, maku; blood, makiya; water, miba (old form maiba).

NOTE 3. Some nouns beginning with **i** change this letter into **io** for the plural; these belong to the seventh class, which see.

## EXAMPLES.

	Singular.	Plural.
Bird	inâni	lonâni
Place	iboko	loboko
Pepper	ikadada	lokadada
Spider	ibobëli	lobobëli

## EXAMPLE OF ADJUNCT OF THE SECOND CLASS OF NOUNS.

Sing.	Name of Jesus.	Dina ja Jisu.
Pl.	Names of Jesus.	Mina ma Jisu.

## THIRD CLASS.

The third class of nouns comprises all (except verbal nouns of agency) beginning with **u** and **mw** (equivalent **mu**). To form the plural, they change those letters into **me**.

## EXAMPLES.

	Singular.	Plural.
Axe	ubâki	mebâki
Garden	mwanga	meanga
Female	mwadi	meadi

## EXCEPTIONS.

	Singular.	Plural.
Head	molo	meolo
Male	momi	meomi

## EXAMPLE OF THE ADJUNCT OF THE THIRD CLASS OF NOUNS.

Sing.	Garden of plantains,	Mwanga	mua	bekâi.
Pl.	Gardens	“	Meanga	mea bekâi.

## FOURTH CLASS.

The fourth class comprises all the nouns beginning with **bo** (equivalent **bw**); and the plural is formed by changing into **me** either (1) **bo** (**bw**) or (2) **b** alone.

## EXAMPLES OF (1).

	Sing.	Plural.
Orange	bolohi	melohi
Canoe	bwalo	mealo
Medicine	bwanga	meanga

## EXAMPLES OF (2).

	Sing.	Plural.
Face	boho	meoho
Rainy season	bokâ	meokâ

Exceptions: Buhwa, day, belongs to this fourth class in the singular, but the plural, hwi, which is irregular, takes its adjunct with the singular of the second class. Bobe, sin, belonging to this fourth class in the singular, has its plural, mabe, like the plural of the second class.

## EXAMPLE OF ADJUNCT OF THE FOURTH CLASS OF NOUNS.

Sing.	Canoe of a stranger,	Bwalo boa mwēngi.
Pl.	Canoes " " "	Mealo mea mwēngi.

## FIFTH CLASS.

This class consists of the very large number of the verbal nouns of agency, whose initial letter is **u** ; the plural is formed by changing **u** into **ba**.

## EXAMPLES.

	Singular.	Plural.
Builder	ulongi	balongi
Fisher	uhombwedi	bahombwedi
Saviour	uyongi	bayongi

## EXAMPLE OF ADJUNCT OF THE FIFTH CLASS OF NOUNS.

Sing.	The builder of a house,	Ulongi mua ndabo.
Pl.	The builders " " "	Balongi ba ndabo.

## SIXTH CLASS.

A few nouns, names of rational beings, beginning with **mo** and **mw** (equivalent mu) constitute a sixth class. They form their plural by changing **mo** into **ba** and **mw** (mu) into **b**. They are thus separately constituted from the fifth class because of the form **ně** they take in their adjunct of the definite demonstrative pronoun, which see.

## EXAMPLES.

	Singular.	Plural.
Person	moto	bato
Man	momo	bamo
Woman	mwajo	bajo
Child	mwana	bana

Mwada, wife, is irregular in its plural bajo.  
 Query: Is polygamy thus wrought into the very language itself?

EXAMPLE OF ADJUNCT OF THE SIXTH CLASS OF NOUNS.

Sing. Man of sorrows, Momo ua betuniya.  
 Pl. Men of " Bamo ba betuniya.

SEVENTH CLASS.

The seventh class comprises diminutives and all other nouns beginning with **vi**. The plural is formed by changing (1) **v** into **l**, (2) **vi** into **l**, (3) **vi** into **lo**.

EXAMPLES OF (1).

	Singular.	Plural.
River	viho	liho
Torch	vitwa	litwa
Nose	vijo	lijo

EXAMPLES OF (2).

	Singular.	Plural.
Song	viembo	lembo
Salt	vianga	langa
Lime-fruit	viaha	laha

EXAMPLES OF (3).

	Singular.	Plural.
A little thing	vilombo	lolombo
A small fish	vijajaka	lojajaka
A little piece	vipupuhu	lopupuhu

The exceptions mentioned in note (3) of the second class of nouns, beginning with **i**, but which make their plural in **lo**, belong to this seventh class, e. g., inâni, bird; plural, lonâni (not manâni).

EXAMPLE OF ADJUNCT OF THE SEVENTH CLASS OF NOUNS.

Sing.	Song of praise,	Viembo via ibenda.
Pl.	Songs	“ Lembo la ibenda.

EIGHTH CLASS.

The eighth class embraces all nouns which undergo no change to form the plural. But they are declinable in their adjuncts, taking in the singular the adjunct of the singular of class first, and in the plural the adjunct of the singular of class second.

Examples : mbanja, bamboo ; fato, stocking ; tomba, goat ; kuba, chicken ; pëlë, way ; nyanga, sake.

Note 1. Pëlë and nyanga are used sometimes as nouns and sometimes as adverbial phrases in connection with the preposition o.

EXAMPLES AS NOUNS.

O pëlë 'pâkwë ea viho,	On the other side of the river.
O pël' eyamu,	In a good way.
A wakind' o nyang' 'ahu,	He died for our sake.

EXAMPLES AS ADVERBIAL PHRASES.

O pël' 'amë.	About me.
O nyang' 'amë,	As far as I am concerned.

Note 2. Some nouns belonging to this eighth class have a second form for the plural, taking the plural adjunct of the second class.

EXAMPLE.

Sing.,	Adjunct. Pl.,	Adjunct.
House, Ndabo,	en;	{ ndabo, ja mandabo, ma



## EXAMPLE OF ADJUNCT OF THE EIGHTH CLASS OF NOUNS.

Sing. Chicken of my friend, Kuba ea mbwe' 'amě.

Pl. Chickens " " Kuba ja mbwe' 'amě.

## DERIVATIVES.

At least five kinds of nouns may be derived from verbs or from other nouns.

## 1. ABSTRACT NOUNS.

These are derived from the second person singular imperative of the verb, by dropping the last syllable and prefixing **i**.

## EXAMPLES.

Longaka, build thou. Ilonga, building.

Langaka, read thou. Ilanga, reading.

Kalaka, talk thou. Ikala, talking.

These nouns all belong to class second, both in singular and plural.

## 2. NOUNS OF AGENCY.

These are formed from the second person singular imperative of the verb, by dropping the last syllable, changing the vowel which precedes it to **i**, and prefixing **u**.

## EXAMPLES.

Longaka, build thou. Ulongi, a builder.

Langaka, read thou. Ulangi, a reader.

Kalaka, talk thou. Ukali, a talker.

These nouns all belong to class fifth, both in the singular and plural.

3. NOUNS OF MODE OR MANNER.

These are formed by changing **u** of the noun of agency into **i**, and suffixing **di**.

EXAMPLES.

Ulongi, a builder.	Ilongidi, mode of building.
Ulangi, a reader.	Ilangidi, way of reading.
Ukali, a talker.	Ikalidi, manner of talking.

These nouns all belong to class second both in singular and plural.

4. NOUNS OF PLACE OR LOCALITY.

These are formed by adding to the abstract noun the syllables **nido**.

EXAMPLES.

Ilonga, a building.	Ilonganido, site for a house.
Ihamba, a price.	Ihambanido, a market-place.
Ijabua, fording.	Ijabwanido, a ford.

These nouns all belong to class second both in singular and plural.

5. NOUNS OF DIMINUTION.

These are formed (1) from nouns beginning with a vowel by changing this vowel to **vi**, and reduplicating the second syllable, (2) from nouns beginning with a consonant, by prefixing **vi** and reduplicating the first syllable.

EXAMPLES OF (1).

		Singular.	Plural.
Food, eja ;	a little food,	vijaja,	lojaja.
Hand, ikadu ;	a small hand,	vikakadu,	lokakadu.

EXAMPLES OF (2).

Door, jâmbe ;	A small door,	vijâjâmbe	lojâjâmbe.
House, ndabo ;	A small house,	vindandabo	londandabo.

These nouns all belong to class seventh both in singular and plural.

#### 6. NOUNS OF INTENSITY.

They express the quality of the noun in the greatest degree. Formed by reduplicating any noun, and suffixing *ě*, e. g., *motomotwě*, a real man; *ndabondabwě*, a very fine house; *ekalikaliě*, simply talking, i. e., gabbling.

See also other forms of verbal nouns under note to the paradigm of verbs and their species. Thus:

From the relative species *Kalakiya*, speak for or to.

#### EXAMPLES.

- Kind of noun 1. *Ikaliya*, prayer.  
 “ 2. *Ukaliyi*, one who prays.  
 “ 5. *Vikakaliya*, a little prayer.

From the reciprocal species, *Kalanaka*, speak together.

#### EXAMPLES.

- Kind of noun 1. *Ikalana*, conversation.  
 “ 2. *Ukalani*, one who converses.  
 “ 3. *Ikanidi*, way of conversing.  
 “ 5. *Vikakalana*, a little conversation.

### ADJECTIVES.

Adjectives have number and classification, but they have neither case nor gender, and no proper degrees of comparison.

#### NUMBER AND CLASS—INFLECTION.

Adjectives have a singular and plural form, and

they are also inflected so as to agree in class with the nouns which they qualify.

The following examples exhibit a noun of each class joined with the adjective "good" in the singular and plural.

1st	{	Sing.	Good hat, epokolo eyamu.
		Pl.	Good hats, bepokolo beyamu.
2d	{	Sing.	Good boat-landing, ibongo iyamu.
		Pl.	Good boat-landings, mabongo mayamu.
3d	{	Sing.	Good axe, ubâki uyamu.
		Pl.	Good axes, mebâki meyamu.
4th	{	Sing.	Good face, boho boyamu.
		Pl.	Good faces, meoho meyamu.
5th	{	Sing.	Good builder, ulongi uyamu.
		Pl.	Good builders, balongi bayamu.
6th	{	Sing.	Good person, moto uyamu.
		Pl.	Good persons, bato bayamu,
7th	{	Sing.	Good candle, vitwa viyamu.
		Pl.	Good candles, litwa loyamu.
8th	{	Sing.	Good house, ndabo eyamu.
		Pl.	Good houses, ndabo iyamu.

We find here the forms *eyam'*, *beyam'*; *uyam'*, *mayam'*; *uyam'*, *meyam'*, etc., which the adjective *yamu* takes to agree with a noun of each class.

All the adjectives, with a few exceptions noted below, and possessive and adjective pronouns, are inflected in the same manner.

Exception (1.) A few adjectives are not inflected, but are used in connection with the nouns which they qualify, without any variation of their simple root form, e. g., *nyëvi*, nice; *kena*, excessive.

Exception (2.) The cardinals from 6 to 9 inclusive, *utoba*, *hëmbwëdi*, *logwambi*, *ibuwa*.

## COMPARISON.

Objects are compared (1) by a circumlocution, (2) by merely stating the quality of the object which possesses the particular quality in the highest or lowest degree, (3) by peculiar intonation and emphasis.

To aid in expressing comparative and superlative degrees, the verb **keba**, to surpass, and the adverb **wa**, more, are frequently used.

## EXAMPLES IN COMPARATIVE DEGREE.

My hat is better than yours.

Epokol' 'amě e kebakënd' eävě.

(Literally) Hat my it excels yours.

This is a larger fish than that.

Ejaka tēkae e nd' eněně wa na 'kae.

(Literally) Fish this it is large more with that.

Ogula is older than Komba.

Komba na Ogula ; Ogul' a nd' utodu.

(Literally) Komba and Ogula ; Ogula he is old.

## EXAMPLES IN SUPERLATIVE DEGREE.

My hat is the best of all.

Epokol' 'amě e kebakëndi bežhěpi.

(Literally) Hat my it surpasses all [hats].

This is the largest fish I have ever seen.

Ekae nd' ejaka 'něně mětě eamě e ha yěně n' ivākwě.

(Literally) This is fish large very mine which not seen before.

The Bible is the best of books.

Bible e nd' ejanganangobo eyam' wa na bežhěpi.

(Literally) Bible it is book good more with all [books].

Emphasis and intonation are used to indicate extremes in quantity and quality; precisely as in English we express ecstasy of grief or joy, admiration or detestation, by an emphatic prolongation of

a syllable, e. g., beau-u-tiful! hor-r-rible! But the native African must be heard to appreciate the exaggeration of his u-ya-a-a-m', exceedingly good! é-ně-ě-ě-ně, exceedingly great!

The list of adjectives in Benga is very short, for such common words as good, yamu; bad, be; large, năně; small, hâle; special, huhu; many, itô; black, vindo, etc. But this paucity is supplied by the constant use of substantive-adjectives.

#### SUBSTANTIVES FOR ADJECTIVES.

A very frequent construction (somewhat after the manner of the Hebrew "hill of holiness," holy hill) is to ascribe to a given noun the quality, material, possession, attribute, or habit of some other noun, the two nouns being connected by the proper class-agreeing prepositional adjunct of the first or qualified noun.

Examples: "Ancient people" is expressed thus: bato ba vyo. Here the attribute (age) of the noun vyo, ago, is ascribed to the noun bato, people, by the sixth class vinculum **ba** belonging to bato.

New cloth, unamba mua kya; literally, cloth of now.

High hill, ukodi mu' ndomba; literally, hill of height.

#### NUMERAL ADJECTIVES.

The manner of counting in Benga is strictly decimal. And the spoken word is illustrated and emphasized by a regular and systematic show of the same number of the speaker's fingers of either hand.

CARDINAL NUMBERS.

NUMERALS.	CLASSES OF NOUNS.							
Root-forms.	1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.
1 pākā	čākā	jākā	umbākā	čākā	umbākā	umbākā	viākā	pākā
2 lobāle	bebale	mbale	mebale	mebale	obale	obale	lobale	lobale
3 ilalo	bełalo	malalo	malalo	malalo	balalo	balalo	lobalo	ilalo
4 māl	bełal	malal	malal	malal	balal	balal	lobal	māl
5 ilano	bełano	malano	malano	malano	balano	balano	lobano	ilano
6 utoba	indeclinable							
7 hembwēdi	and							
8 ogwambo	invariable.							
9 lōwā		{ jākā } { mbale }						
10 } (mabo, sing.	na čākā	na jākā	n' umbākā	na bākā	n' umbākā	n' umbākā	na viākā	na pākā
11 } (mabo, pl.)	na bebale	na mbale	na mebale	na bēbale	na bēbale	na babale	na lobale	n' lōwā
12 } 13 } 14 } 15 } 16 } 17 } 18 } 19 } 20 } 21 } 22 } 23 } 24 } 25 } 26 } 27 } 28 } 29 } 30 } 31 } 32 } 33 } 34 } 35 } 36 } 37 } 38 } 39 } 40 } 41 } 42 } 43 } 44 } 45 } 46 } 47 } 48 } 49 } 50 }	na bełalo na bełal na bełano etc. etc. etc.	n' umbākā na mebale etc.	na bākā na mebale etc.	n' umbākā na babale etc.	n' umbākā na babale etc.	n' umbākā na babale etc.	na viākā na lobale etc.	n' utoba na hembwēdi na ogwambo n' lōwā
51 } 52 } 53 } 54 } 55 } 56 } 57 } 58 } 59 } 60 }		mbale mbale malalo malal malano etc.	na čākā na bebale etc.	na bākā na mebale etc.	n' umbākā na babale etc.	n' umbākā na babale etc.	na viākā na lobale etc.	utoba hembwēdi ogwambo lōwā pākā lobale pākā
100 } 101 } 102 } 103 } 104 } 105 } 106 } 107 } 108 } 109 } 110 }	na čākā							
1000 } 10000 }	čājen							
10,000 }	čājen							

In the preceding table, it will be perceived that the numerals from 1 to 5 inclusive are inflected as common adjectives to agree with the nouns which they qualify. From 6 to 9 inclusive they are indeclinable.

Ten and its multiples are used as round numbers, and the nouns which they qualify are construed after them connected by the regular class-prepositional vinculum or adjunct. Thus, "one hat" is epokolo eâkâ; but "ten hats" is jom' ja bepokolo, literally "ten of hats." "Twenty hats" is mabo ma bepokolo mabale, literally "tens of hats two." "Thirty hats," mabo ma bepokolo malalo; literally, "tens of hats three.

When a given number of things includes units, tens, and hundreds, the noun is repeated for each repetition of the qualifying numeral adjective. Thus :

One hundred and six people.

Kama ea bato pâkâ, na bato utoba.

(Literally) Hundred of people one, and people six.

Two hundred and ten people.

Kama ja bato ibale, na jomu ja bato jâkâ.

(Literally) Hundreds of people two, and ten of people one.

Seven hundred and twenty-five people.

Kama ja bato hëmbwëdi, na mabu ma bato mabale, na bato batano.

(Literally) Hundreds of people seven, and tens of people two, and people five.

But in common conversation all this is abbrevi-



ated by uttering the noun only when the units are finally named. Thus :

Kama hëmbwëdi na mabu mabale na bato batano.  
(Literally) Hundreds seven and tens two and people five.

This may be still further abbreviated by dropping the conjunction **na**, except at the final uttering of the unit. Thus :

Twelve hundred and thirty-four people.  
Täjen pâkâ kama ibale mabu małalo na bato banai.  
(Literally) Thousand one, hundreds two, tens three, and people four.

In the very common native African colloquial mode of expressing a numeral by exhibiting the number of fingers indicating it, the hearer is expected to name the adjunct of the class of noun to which the indicated number belongs.

For 1, the speaker lifts up an index finger ; for 2, the first and second fingers only ; for 3, the second, third, and fourth fingers only ; for 4, the four fingers, the thumb being hidden ; for 5, the closed fist.

Thus, if a man going on a journey is asked how many days he will be absent, and intends to be absent, perhaps, four days, he will reply, "Hwi di," (days so), at the same time holding up four fingers ; and the interrogator is expected to say, "Inai" (four).

So, also, if there be three axes, and the question be, Mebâki meningë ? how many axes ? the reply

is, "Me," with three fingers up; **me** being the plural adjunct of the class third of nouns to which *mebâki* belongs.

In narration, and very graphically in the telling of **pâ** (a summary of incidents told immediately after arrival from a journey), this method of numbering is chiefly used; and it is remarkable with what facility hundreds, tens, and units can be represented, with no fear on the part of the narrator of being misunderstood.

#### ORDINAL NUMBERS.

The Benga language has no proper series of ordinal numbers. But a regular series may be formed in the same manner that some of the neighboring tribes form their ordinals, i. e., by prefixing to the cardinal series the prepositional vinculum corresponding to and qualifying the noun thus numbered. In this series, however, *bohoboho* (face-to-face—"the fore") is used instead of *pâkâ*.

The forms for ordinals used with nouns of the several classes would be as follows:

## ORDINALS.

NOUN. Class.	ADJUNCT.	1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.
1st.	{ ea }	bobohoho	bebale	beialo	benal	betano	utoba	hěmbwěđi	logwambi	ibuwa
2d.	{ ja }	"	mabale	malalo	manal	matano	"	"	"	"
3d.	{ mua }	"	mebale	meialo	menal	metano	"	"	"	"
4th.	{ boa }	"	mebale	meialo	menal	metano	"	"	"	"
5th.	{ mua }	"	babale	balalo	banal	batano	"	"	"	"
6th.	{ ba }	"	babale	balalo	banal	batano	"	"	"	"
7th.	{ ua }	"	lobale	lolalo	lonal	lotano	"	"	"	"
8th.	{ via }	"	ibale	ilalo	lnal	ltano	"	"	"	"
	{ ea }									
	{ ja }									

## DISTRIBUTIVE NUMBERS.

These are formed by repeating the cardinals; these, however, agreeing in their inflection with the class-letters or adjuncts of the noun they number.

NOUN. Class.	One by one.	Two by two.	Four by four.	Six by six.	Seven by seven.
1st.	yakayaka	bebale-bebale	benal-benal	utoba-utoba	hěmbwěđi-hěmbwěđi
2d.	jakajaka	mabale-mabale	manal-manal	"	"
3d.	umbakaumbaka	mebale-mebale	menal-menal	"	"
4th.	bakabaka	mebale-mebale	menal-menal	"	"
5th.	umbakaumbaka	babale-babale	banal-banal	"	"
6th.	umbakaumbaka	babale-babale	banal-banal	"	"
7th.	viakaviaka	lobale-lobale	lonal-lonal	"	"
8th.	yakayaka	ibale-ibale	lnal-lnal	"	"

## PRONOUNS.

There are seven kinds of pronouns: personal, relative, definite, interrogative, demonstrative, indefinite, and distributive.

The possessive personal pronouns, the demonstrative, and the indefinite, have the form of adjectives and are declined in all respects similarly.

## PERSONAL PRONOUNS.

These have number, person, and case, but no gender.

## TABLE OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS.

SINGULAR.			
	Nominative.	Possessive.	Objective.
1st Person.	mbi	mě	umba
2d Person.	o	âvě	âvě
3d Person.	a	ju	mâ ; ju
PLURAL.			
	Nominative.	Possessive.	Objective.
1st Person.	ho	hu	hwě
2d Person.	o	nyu	iuyěni ; inyi
3d Person.	ba	bu	bâ

Note. There is another form of the nominatives of the three persons.

	Singular.	Plural.
1st Person.	mba, mbu	hwa, hu
2d Person.	wa, wu	wa, wu
3d Person.	aa, au	baa, bu

Query. The presence of this **a** in **mba**, and the apparently unnecessary forms of **wa** and **hwa**,

can be accounted for in two other ways than by admitting their existence as actual distinct forms. With a harmonious application of the rules for elision and coalescence of vowels, the irregular existence of those forms can be done away with.

1st. By recognizing (what is undeniable) that **a** and **u** are privative, and are one of the signs of negation.

Example of **a** negative: Mba vahaka, I do not wish:

## SINGULAR.

1. mbi a vahaka, mb'-à vahaka, (pronounced) mbà vahaka.
2. o a vahaka, o-à vahaka, " wà vahaka.
3. a a vahaka, a-à vahaka, " nà vahaka.

## PLURAL.

1. ho a vahaka, ho-à vahaka, (pronounced) hwà vahaka.
2. o a vahakani, o-à vahakani, " wà vahakani.
3. ba a vahaka, ba-à vahaka, " baà vahaka.

Example of **u** negative: Mbu vahaka, I did not wish:

## SINGULAR.

1. mbi u vahaka, mb'-u vahaka, (pronounced) mbù vahaka.
2. o u vahaka, o-u vahaka, " wù vahaka.
3. a u vahaka, a-u vahaka, " àù vahaka.

## PLURAL.

1. ho u vahaka, h'-u vahaka, (pronounced) hù vahaka.
2. o u vahakani, o-u vahakani, " wù vahakani.
3. ba u vahaka, b'-u vahaka, " bù vahaka.

2d. By assuming (what is here made only as a suggestion) that in certain tenses (mentioned far-

ther on) of the verb, **a** is a prefixed portion of the verb itself. Why the verb should thus change its initial letter, I do not attempt here to explain. But reasons for its possibility will be given under the paradigm on page 71.

Example of **a**, not as a sign of negation, but as possibly a part of the verb itself: **K' umba mba vala**, And then I went :

## SINGULAR.

- |                        |                    |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. ka umba mbi a vala, | k' umba-mb' avala, | k' umba-mb' avala. |
| 2. ka âvĕ o a vala,    | k' âvĕ-o avala,    | k' âvĕ wa 'vala.   |
| 3. ka mâ a a vala,     | ka mâ-a avala,     | ka mwa 'vala.      |

## PLURAL.

- |                          |                      |                       |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. ka hwĕ ho a vala,     | ka hwĕ-ho avala,     | ka hwĕ-hwa 'vala.     |
| 2. ka inyĕni o a valani, | k' inyĕni-o avalani, | k' inyĕni wa 'valani. |
| 3. ka bâ ba a vala,      | ka bâ-b' avala,      | ka bâ-ba 'vala.       |

These forms of the personal pronoun are used, (1) in the present and future indicative active of the negative aspect of verbs, (2) in the narrative perfect indicative active of the affirmative aspect of verbs, and (3) in the future potential active of the affirmative aspect of verbs.

Example of (1) present indicative active negative : **Mbâ tândâkâ**, I do not love :

## SINGULAR.

- |                   |                |              |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. mbi a tândâkâ, | mb'-a tândâkâ. | mbâ tândâkâ. |
| 2. o a tândâkâ,   | o-a tândâkâ,   | wâ tândâkâ.  |
| 3. a a tândâkâ,   | a-a tândâkâ,   | nâ tândâkâ.  |

## PLURAL.

- |                   |                |               |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. ho a tândâkâ,  | ho-a tândâkâ.  | hwâ tândâkâ.  |
| 2. o a tândâkâni, | o-a tândâkâni, | wâ tândâkâni, |
| 3. ba a tândâkâ,  | ba-a tândâkâ,  | baâ tândâkâ.  |

Future indicative active negative : Mbà vale, I  
will not go :

## SINGULAR.

- |                |             |           |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. mbi a vale, | mb'-a vale. | mbà vale. |
| 2. o a vale.   | o-a vale.   | wà vale.  |
| 3. a a vale,   | a-a vale,   | aâ vale.  |

## PLURAL.

- |                |             |            |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. ho a vale,  | ho-a vale,  | hwâ vale.  |
| 2. o a valeni, | o-a valeni, | wâ valeni. |
| 3. ba a vale,  | ba-a vale,  | b'â vale.  |

Example of (2) narrative perfect indicative active  
affirmative : K' umba mba vala, And then I went :

## SINGULAR.

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. k' umba-mb' a vala, | k' umba-mba vala. |
| 2. k' âvë-o a vala,    | k' âvë-wa vala.   |
| 3. ka mâ-a a vala,     | ka mwa vala       |

## PLURAL.

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. ka hwë ho a vala.     | ka hwë-hwa vala.     |
| 2. k' inyëni o a valani, | k' inyëni-wa valani. |
| 3. ka bâ ba a vala,      | ka bâ-ba vala.       |

Example of (3) future potential active affirma-  
tive : Mba yâjâ kwë, Let me rest awhile.

## SINGULAR.

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. mbi a yâjâ. or, mbi ayâjâ, (pronounced) mba yâjâ. |            |
| 2. o a yâjâ, or, o ayâjâ,                            | " wa yâjâ. |
| 3. a a yâjâ, or, a ayâjâ,                            | " a yâjâ.  |

## PLURAL.

- |                |                |              |            |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. ho a yâjâ,  | or, ho ayâjâ,  | (pronounced) | hwa yâjâ.  |
| 2. o a yâjâni, | or, o ayâjâni, | "            | wa yâjâni. |
| 3. ba a yâjâ,  | or, ba ayâjâ,  | "            | ba yâjâ.   |

Suggestion. In the adjacent Mpongwe dialect, **a** becomes, in certain tenses, prefixed to the verb itself. It is supposed that this is also the case in Fañ. Possibly this might be the case also in Benga, e. g., ayâjâ for a yâjâ, in the example just above given.

One of the forms, **ju**, of the 3d pers. obj. is used, but not invariably, after the conjunction **na**, e. g., Kékê na ju, Go with him. But as the object of verbs and of prepositions, **mâ** is always used, e. g., Vékê mâ beja, Give him food. Kékê o mâ-a jadi, Go unto him.

A euphonic **n** is sometimes used with the second person singular, as, na nâvē.

There is also a very frequent combination of the objective and nominative as a double subject, like the ungrammatical English, "Mr. A. he said;" but which is perfectly correct in Benga. Thus: O umba mbi vâki, When I said.

## SINGULAR.

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. O 'mba-mbi vâki, | When me-I said.         |
| 2. O âvē-o vâki,    | When thee-thou saidest. |
| 3. O mâ-a vâki,     | When him-he said.       |

## PLURAL.

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. O hwê-ho vaki,     | When us-we said.     |
| 2. O 'nyëni-o vakini, | When you-ye said.    |
| 3. O bâ-ba vâki,      | When them-they said. |



## FUNCTIONS OF THE PERSONAL PRONOUN IN BENGA.

REMARK 1st.—The personal pronoun, in the possessive case, belongs, like an adjective, to the noun which it possesses. Its union with the noun is so intimate that it sometimes changes the accent of the noun, and might almost be said to form with it a compound word. Thus: My hand, enâ eamě, might be written enwamě.

REMARK 2d.—The personal pronouns which represent irrational animals and things have a form for each class of nouns, e. g., for the first class :

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. e	be.
3d pers. eâ	beâ.

They were not included in the class table on page 31, but are treated under Definite Pronouns, which see on page 48.

REMARK 3d.—The possessive case is also intimately united with the preposition a, "of," and with the prefixes of the several classes of nouns, making thereby a compound definite pronoun, agreeing, like an adjective, with the nouns over which they express possession. Thus :

Enâ ea ngudi,	A hand of strength.
Benâ bea ngudi,	Hands of strength.
Ulâki mua America,	American axe.
Mebâki mea America,	American axes.

REMARK 4th.—The union of the possessive case with the class prefixes might be considered as far-

ther compounded by union with the preposition **a**, "of," e. g., as

e- a- mĕ } my;      j- a- ju } his.  
it of me }            it of him }

This assumes that the radical forms of the personal pronouns are **mĕ, hu; âvĕ, nyu; ju. bu.**

REMARK 5th.—There may be suffixed to the objective of each personal pronoun, the adverb **mĕtĕ**, "very," with the force of "self," as, **umba-mĕtĕ**, myself; **mâ-mĕtĕ**, himself; **inyĕni-mĕtĕ**, yourselves.

REMARK 6th.—To the compound possessive personal pronoun may be prefixed **i**, with the force of "own," as **ijamĕ, ibeamĕ, imeamĕ**, my own; with or without the suffixing of **mĕtĕ**, e. g., **ijamĕ mĕtĕ**, my very own.

TABLE OF THE POSSESSIVE PERSONAL PRONOUNS, SHOWING THEIR USE WITH THE CLASS-LETTERS OR PREFIXES OF THE SEVERAL CLASSES OF NOUNS.

Class of noun.	Num. ber.	Class Pref.	First person.		Second person.		Third person.	
			Sing. amĕ	Plural. abu	Sing. âvĕ	Plural. anyu	Sing.aju	Plural. abu
1st.	Sing.	e	eamĕ	eahu	eâvĕ	eanyu	eaju	eabu
	Pl.	be	beamĕ	beahu	beâvĕ	beanyu	beaju	beabu
2d.	Sing.	j	jamĕ	jahu	jâvĕ	janyu	jaju	jabu
	Pl.	n	mamĕ	mahu	mâvĕ	manyu	maju	mabu
3d.	Sing.	mu	muamĕ	muahu	muâvĕ	muanyu	muaju	muabu
	Pl.	me	meamĕ	meahu	meâvĕ	meanyu	meaju	meabu
4th.	Sing.	bo	boamĕ	boahu	boâvĕ	boanyu	boaju	boabu
	Pl.	me	meamĕ	meahu	meâvĕ	meanyu	meaju	meabu
5th.	Sing.	mu	muamĕ	muahu	muâvĕ	muanyu	muaju	muabu
	Pl.	b	bamĕ	bahu	bâvĕ	banyu	baju	babu
6th.	Sing.	u	uamĕ	uahu	uâvĕ	uanyu	uaju	uabu
	Pl.	b	bamĕ	bahu	bâvĕ	banyu	baju	babu
7th.	Sing.	vi	viamĕ	viahu	viâvĕ	vianyu	viaju	viabu
	Pl.	l	lamĕ	lahu	lâvĕ	lanyu	laju	labu
8th.	Sing.	e	eamĕ	eahu	eâvĕ	eanyu	eaju	eabu
	Pl.	j	jamĕ	jahu	jâvĕ	janyu	jaju	jabu

In the foregoing table there is a contraction, consistent with the rule for elision, throughout the entire second person singular. Thus :

e- a- âvĕ } yours, ea-âvĕ, e'âvĕ, eâvĕ.  
it of you }

#### RELATIVE PRONOUNS.

There are no proper relative pronouns except the interrogatives. Their place is supplied by the definite pronouns. Thus :

I am the person who did it.  
Umba ndi moto a ma ha eâ.

(Literally) Me is the person *he* has done it.

In this example the "who" of English is represented by **a** in Benga, which is the definite pronoun standing for *moto*. It does not agree in person with **umba**, which it would do were it a personal pronoun, as its English representative in the literal translation is.

#### EXAMPLES.

These are the men whom I saw.

Ekaba ndi bamo bamĕ ba ma yĕnĕ.

(Literally) These are men of mine *they* have seen.

We are the people who did that work.

Hwĕ ndi bato ba ma ha 'havu tĕnĕ.

(Literally) Us are people *they* have done work that.

#### INTERROGATIVES.

These are: **nja**, who; **ve**, which; and **nde**, what.

## EXAMPLES.

Who says so?	Nj' a ma vâ nonan' ě.
Who art thou?	Avě lě a nja-ě.
Who are ye?	Inyi lě ba nja-ě.
Who are these people?	Ekaba lě nja bato-ě.

Sometimes nja is used for "what." Thus:

What time?	Nja 'gombe-ě.
What work?	Nja 'havu-ě.

**Ve** is used very much as the interrogative "which," in English.

## EXAMPLES.

Which [ukâtâ, pen] dost thou want?	
Uve lě umuâvě u vahak' ě.	
Which [epokolo, hat]? Eve lě.	

It will be observed, in the above examples, that **ve** varies itself as an adjective to agree with the noun to which it refers, by prefixing to itself the class-letter of that noun, e. g., with ukâtâ, a noun of the third class, **ve** becomes **uve**; with epokolo, a noun of the first class, **ve** becomes **eve**.

**Nde** is used, in most cases, synonymously with the English "what." Thus:

What is the matter?	What does he say?
E lě nde.	A kalaka lě nde.
(Literally) It? what.	(Literally) He speaks? what.

NOTE.—**Lě** and **ě** are equivalent to "?" as signs of interrogation, and **lě** has a plural, **li**.

An auditor, not having distinctly heard what was said, will interrupt the speaker with, "Na, lě"

(What's he say? or, What's that?). But the **na** is probably an adverb, "thus" or "namely," e. g.,

And he spoke unto him, saying.

Ka mâ-a vâ na ju, na.

(Literally) And him-he said to him, viz.

#### DEFINITE PRONOUN.

This part of speech is not found in the English language, nor in any other, so far as is known, except in the various dialects of the Bantu language comprised in the southern half of Africa. In some positions it supplies the place of a personal pronoun; in some, that of a relative; in some, that of the genitive case in Latin, or the preposition "of" in English, when it signifies possession. But, in many positions in which it is used, the English and most other languages have nothing corresponding. The definite pronoun is inflected, and has a form agreeing with each class of nouns.

#### NOUNS AND THEIR DEFINITE PRONOMINAL ADJUNCTS.

Class of noun	Nom.	Noun.	Objective.	Possessive.	Spoken
1st.	Sing. e	enâ, e	eâ	ea	ya
	Pl. be	benâ, be	beâ	bea	bya
2d.	Sing. i	ikadu, i	jâ	ja	
	Pl. ma	makadu, ma	mâ	ma	
3d.	Sing. u	ubâki, u	mâ	mua	mwa
	Pl. me	mebâki. me	meâ	mea	mya
4th.	Sing. bo	boho, bo	boâ	boa	bwa
	Pl. me	meoho, me	meâ	mea	mya
5th.	Sing. u	ulongi, u	mâ	mua	mwa
	Pl. ba	balongi, ba	bâ	ba	
6th.	Sing. u	moto, u	mâ	ua	wa
	Pl. ba	bato, ba	bâ	ba	
7th.	Sing. vi	vitwa, vi	viâ	via	vya
	Pl. lo	litwa, lo	lâ	la	
8th.	Sing. e	mbanja, e	eâ	ea	ya
	Pl. i	imbanja, i	jâ	ja	

## USES OF THE DEFINITE PRONOUN.

1st. It interposes itself between all nouns in the nominative case and the verbs which they govern, as an apposition pronoun, having the same case, number, and classification as the noun, thus making a double nominative.

## EXAMPLES.

Ejanganangobo <i>e</i> vaki nonaně.	Book it says so.
Lonāni <i>lo</i> věvěkěndi.	Birds they fly.
Bwalo-b'-utangani <i>bo</i> tamwakandi.	Ship it sails.

In these examples, **e**, **lo**, and **bo** are definite pronouns, agreeing in case, number, and classification with the nouns, respectively, *ejanganangobo*, *lonāni*, and *bwalobutangani*.

2d. It sometimes occupies the position of a personal pronoun of the objective case.

## EXAMPLES.

Mbwia i nākāndi : mbi tādākānd' o yěně <i>jà</i> .
Rain it rains ; I like to see it.
Mbi na mebāki ; o vahakand' o hamba <i>meā-ě</i> .
I have axes ; dost thou wish to buy them ?

Notice the position of **jà** and **meā**.

3d. It is used as a relative, and as such it identifies its antecedent with admirable precision by the beautiful alliteration that distinguishes the Bantu languages.

## EXAMPLES.

God made all things which we see.
Anyambě a velakindi <i>belombo behu be yěněkě beěhēpi</i> .
(Literally) God He made things of ours they see all.

I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

Mbi ka vitěnd' ávė o loboko lāvė lo ka valė lžěpi.

(Literally) I will follow thee to places of yours they shall go all.

The definite pronoun is used twice in each of these sentences, and in both instances agreeing respectively with *belombo* and *loboko*. The repetitions **be** and **lo** supply the place of the relative "which." (See also examples under Relative Pronouns.)

NOTE.—The above harmony of alliteration is invariable, except (1) when an abstract noun is personified as a concrete. Thus:

Sin has a thousand treacherous arts.

Bobė a na megono ti.

Here "sin" personified has for its definite pronoun **a**, and not **bo**, as in the abstract it should be. As in "My sin is great," *bobe boamě bo ndi boně-ně*, where the harmonic alliteration retains its place.

(2) Only apparent variations caused by contraction. In the examples given in the beginning of this Use Third, the words *lāvė* and *lěhěpi* are contracted from *loāvė* and *loěhěpi*. The contracted forms are the ones always used.

4th. It serves, together with the preposition **a**, "of," as a connecting link or adjunct between two nouns, supplying thus the place of the genitive or possessive case.

EXAMPLES.

Tonda's house. Nđabo ea Tonda. (Contracted) Nđabo 'a Tonda. (Pronounced) Nđabwa Tonda.

Mediko's books. Bejanganangobo bea Mediko,  
Sand of the sea. Mahe ma manga.

No possessive case can be regularly formed without the interposition of the definite pronoun.

TABLE OF DEFINITE ADJUNCTS.

Class of noun.	Number.	Definite Pronoun.		Class of noun.	Number.	Definite Pronoun.	
		Written.	Spoken.			Written.	Spoken.
1st.	Sing.	ea	ya	5th.	Sing.	mua	mwa
	Pl.	bea	bya		Pl.	ba	
2d.	Sing.	ja		6th.	Sing.	ua	wa
	Pl.	ma			Pl.	ba	
3d.	Sing.	mua	mwa	7th.	Sing.	via	vya
	Pl.	mea	mya		Pl.	la	
4th.	Sing.	boa	bwa	8th.	Sing.	ea	ya
	Pl.	mea	mya		Pl.	ja	

5th. It incorporates itself with all adjectives and adjective pronouns, and is indispensable to their declension.

EXAMPLES.

Good axes. Mebâki meyam'.  
Long axes. Mebâki meyaba.  
My axes. Mebâki meamě.  
Their axes. Mebâki meabu.

In these examples, **me** of the adjective and of the possessive pronoun is the definite pronoun representing *mebâki*, axes; and it is indispensable to the regular formation of the qualifying words *yamu*, *amě*, *yaba*, and *abu*. It unites with them, and forms the compound words, *meyam'*, *meamě*, *me-yaba*, and *meabu*.

6th. It unites with **i**, in a duplicated form, to make a compound personal possessive pronoun, in-



cluding the possessor and the thing possessed.  
Thus :

Ikadu ijamě [i-j-a-mě]. My own hand.  
O yokak' ijävě [i-j-a-ävě]. Do not listen, your own self.  
Mebâki me nd' imeaju [i-me-a-ju]. The axes are his own.

#### DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS.

The root-forms of the demonstrative pronouns are **eka**, this, these ; and **ně**, that, those. They are declined so as to agree with nouns of each class ; the class-adjunct being *suffixed* to the **eka** and its inflections, but *prefixed* to **ně** and its inflections. Also by prefixing **eka** to **ně** and its inflections, another word **ekaně** is formed, meaning *that, those* (more distant). This is perfectly regular for all classes of nouns except parts of the sixth and eighth.

TABLE OF DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS AND THEIR CLASS-AGREEMENTS.

Class of noun.	Class Adjunct.	Demonstrative Root forms.				Noun.
		Eka { this these	Ně { that those	ekaně { that those		
1st.	{ e be	ekae ekabe	eně beně	ekae ekabeně	enâ benâ	
2d.	{ di ma	ekadi ekama	dinë maně	ekadině ekamaně	ikadu makadu	
3d.	{ mu me	ekamu ekame	muně meně	ekamuně ekameně	uvândâ mevândâ	
4th.	{ bo me	ekabo ekame	boně meně	ekaboně ekameně	bwalo mealo	
5th.	{ mu ba	ekamu ekaba	muně baně	ekamuně ekabaně	nyongi bayongi	
6th.	{ ně ba	ekaně ekaba	mâně haně	ekaně ekabaně	molo baio	
7th.	{ vi lo	ekavi ekalo	vině loně	ekavině ekaloně	vijo lijo	
8th.	{ ne di	ekaně ekadi	yâně dinë	ekaně ekadině	he he	

All these three, eka, ně, and ɛkaně are made more emphatic, and become demonstrative adjective pronouns by prefixing **tě** to them (their initial **e** being elided after **ě** of **tě** in the combination).

Class of Noun.	Noun.	This, these.	That, those.	That, those. (more distant.)
-1st.	cnâ	těkae	těně	těkaeně
	benâ	těkabc	těheně	těkabeně
2d.	ikadu	těkadi	tědině	těkadině
	makadu	těkama	těmaně	těkamaně
3d.	uvândâ	těkamu	těmuně	těkamuně
	mevândâ	těkame	těmeně	těkameně
4th.	bwa	těkabo	těboně	těkaboně
	mea	těkame	těmeně	těkameně
5th.	nyongi	těkamu	těmuně	těkamuně
	bayongi	těkaba	těbaně	těkabaně
6th.	moto	těkaně	těmáně	těkaněně
	bato	těkaba	těbaně	těkabaně
7th.	vijo	těkavi	těvině	těkavině
	lijo	těkalo	těloně	těkaloně
8th.	he	těkaně	těyăně	těkaněně
	he	těkadi	tědině	těkadině

EXAMPLES.

This is a good thing.      Ekae e ndi elombo eyamu.  
 This thing is good.      Elombo tĕkae e ndi eyamu.

Here, "this" standing alone, as a demonstrative pronoun, the noun being understood, is always ekae and its inflections; but where it stands with the noun expressed, as a demonstrative pronoun, e. g., "this thing," it is always tĕkae and its inflections.

Remark (1). **Tĕ** can be used in a short abrupt—though not necessarily rude or improper—manner, without combination (the class-combinations being

understood) to indicate any noun of any class, and of either number. As, enâ tě, that arm; ikadu tě, that hand; mebâki tě, those axes, and so on, for all classes and both singular and plural.

Remark (2). With moto and words of its class (sixth), "that" is often expressed by těně, instead of its regular těmâně. As: that person, moto těně, instead of moto těmâně.

Remark (3). With nouns of class eight there is great irregularity in their singular.

#### INDEFINITE PRONOUNS.

These are, in their root-forms, âkâ, some; pâkwě, another; ngani, another's; itě, many; ěhěpi, all.

The above are all declined as adjectives, so far as their nature admits of such declension. Ngani is not inflected, and is available only by the interposition of the adjunct of the class to which its agreeing noun belongs, e. g., another's heart, ulema mua ngani; another's face, boho boa ngani. ěhěpi is compound of root ěhě and the intensive pi, which latter is sometimes omitted, as: Bato běhě, all people.

TABLE OF INDEFINITE PRONOUNS.

Class of nouns	Number	Indefinite Pronouns.				Noun.
		âkâ	pâkwě	itě	ěhěpi	
1st.	Sing.	eâkâ	epâkwě	eitě	eěhěpi	enâ
	Pl.	beâkâ	bepâkwě	beite	beěhěpi	benâ
2d.	Sing.	yâkâ	ipâkwě	iiť	jěhěpi	ikadu
	Pl.	mâkâ	mapâkwě	maitě	měhěpi	makadu
3d.	Sing.	umbâkâ	upâkwě	uitě	muěhěpi	uvandâ
	Pl.	meâkâ	mepâkwě	meitě	meěhěpi	mevândâ
4th.	Sing.	bâkâ	bopâkwě	boitě	boěhěpi	bwalo
	Pl.	meâkâ	mepâkwě	meitě	meěhěpi	mealo
5th.	Sing.	umbâkâ	upâkwě	uitě	muěhěpi	uyongi
	Pl.	bâkâ	bapâkwě	baitě	běhěpi	bayongi
6th.	Sing.	umbâkâ	upâkwě	uitě	uěhěpi	moto
	Pl.	bâkâ	bapâkwě	baitě	běhěpi	bato
7th.	Sing.	viâkâ	vipâkwě	viitě	viěhěpi	vitwa
	Pl.	lâkâ	lopâkwě	loitě	lěhěpi	litwa
8th.	Sing.	pâkâ	epâkwě	eitě	eěhěpi	njea
	Pl.	jákâ	ipâkwě	iiť	jěhěpi	njea

In the above table note many (apparent) irregularities. They are due almost solely to regular elisions and coalescences.

(1.) In the inflection of âkâ, eâkâ and beâkâ will be spoken as if written yâkâ and byâkâ; and viâkâ as if vyâkâ; the **mb** of umbâkâ is simply euphonic for uâkâ; mâkâ, bâkâ, and lâkâ, contractions for maâkâ, boâkâ and baâkâ, and loâkâ.

(2.) In the inflections of ěhěpi, eěhěpi and beěhěpi will be spoken as if yěhěpi and byěhěpi; meěhěpi as if myěhěpi; and viěhěpi as if vyěhěpi; boěhěpi and muěhěpi as if bwěhěpi and mwěhěpi, under the regular rule for coalescence; mẽhěpi and běhěpi contracted from what should (rigidly) be maěhěpi and baěhěpi. But it is these contracted forms only that are always used.

## VERBS.

The verb is quite regular and methodical in its conjugation, but at the same time it is difficult for a foreigner to master it completely. The extent and variety of its inflections are very great. Each regular verb has a surprising number of parts regularly derived, many of which can be expressed or represented in English only by phrases.

The simplest form of the verb, and that from which the other parts are most easily and naturally derived, is the singular of the imperative mood. This is therefore taken as the ground-form or radical. Various modifications of meaning, which in western languages are expressed partly by *voices* of the verb, partly by other verbs, are found in Benga in the several derivations or conjugations of the same verb. The word "conjugation" is however objectionable; for its meaning in the grammar of other languages is wholly different. The word "species" will therefore be used in speaking of these forms or modifications.

## SPECIES OF THE VERB.

By the term "species" are designated derived verbs. From the radical of most in the language, others are derived, which have a modified meaning, e. g., from the radical *yowaka*, know thou, comes *yowakidě*, inform thou. *Jaka*, eat, means by one of its species, *jakidě*, feed.

Every regular verb is susceptible of having derived from it the following four species :

## EXAMPLES.

I. Radical		Kalaka, speak.
II. Frequentative species		Kalakate, speak continuously.
III. Relative	"	Kalakia, speak to or for (pray).
IV. Causative	"	Kalakidě, cause to speak.
V. Reciprocal	"	Kalanaka, speak together (converse).
I. Radical		Bapakě, carry.
II. Frequentative species		Bapakate, continue carrying.
III. Relative	"	Bapakia, carry for (transmit).
IV. Causative	"	Bapakidě, cause to carry (lade).
V. Reciprocal	"	Bapanaka, carry in company.

I. The radical of the verb expresses the simple idea of a verb, without any accessory or contingent meaning, as : *tândáká*, love ; *mwětékě*, smile.

II. Frequentative. The frequentative species expresses continuance of the action, and in some verbs, the intensity of the simple idea of the verb, as : *kalakate*, *mbi yokakate*, speak on, I hear (clearly). *Jakate*, *mbi vakate*, continue eating, I am coming (presently). Also from *yěněkě*, see, *yěněkětě*, look sharply.

III. Relative. The relative species directs the action of the verb to or for some one, as : *kalakia Anyambě*, pray to God. *Longakia 'mba ndabo*, build a house for me.

IV. Causative. The force of the causative species is to cause an act to be performed, as : *kalakidě mahonga*, gnash the teeth, (literally, cause the

teeth to speak). Jakidē mâ, feed him, (literally, cause him to eat). Hakidē mâ, employ him, (literally, cause him to work).

V. Reciprocal. The reciprocal species expresses mutuality of action, as: ho tamwanakandi, we are journeying together. Mbi yonganakandi, I am pursuing.

REMARK 1. While these perfectly harmonious derivations are *capable* of being made from any root-form, yet, probably very few series of any one verb would all be used in ordinary conversation, their meaning forbidding their use.

REMARK 2. The meanings of the derivatives do not seem always to be cognate with the meaning of the radical. Thus, yongaka, save; yongakidē, remember; yonganaka, pursue. Also, iyakidē, forgive; a causative form, which seems to have no radical. There are radicals, jaka, eat, and jaka, bear (progeny); the one has its reciprocal janaka, eat one another (as cannibals), the other, janaka, beget.

#### COMPOUND SPECIES.

Other species may be formed by combining with the reciprocal either of the other three simple species; the new species will then express the combined meanings of the words of which they are composed. Thus:

Kalanakate, a recipro-frequentative,  
Continue speaking with each other.

Kalanakia, a recipro-relative,  
 Speak unitedly for (some one) or to (some one).

Kalanakidě, a recipro-causative,  
 Cause to speak together.

NOTE. Three forms: (1) *ta kala*, (2) *kalaka bekalikali*, and (3) *kalaka bo-kalaka*, formerly supposed to be distinct species of a typical radical *kalaka*, are not worthy of being so regarded. The words *ta*, *bekalikali*, and *bo-kalaka* are not *compounded* with the verb; they are only used *in connection* with it, as a score of other adverbs might be. They can be used, not only with the radical, but also with any of the species. (1) *Ta kala* means "speak first." *Ta* is part of the defective verb *taka*, precede, which see in the list of irregular and defective verbs. (2) *Kalaka bekalikali* means "talk nonsense," the plural of the noun *ekalikali*, foolish talking, being used precisely as *kalaka iyowě*, speak wisdom, or, *kalaka nangudi*, speak loudly, might be used. (3) *Kalaka bo-kalaka*, speak, and do nothing else. *Bo* has the force of "only," limiting the action expressed by the verb: *bo-kalaka* is reduplicative, and does not alter the form of the verb at all.

## EXAMPLES.

*Kwělēkě bekwēlikwēli*, chop at random (useless choppings).

*Kwělēkě bo-kwělēkě*, chop, only chopping, i. e., chop, and do nothing else.

The above four species and the compound spe-



cies are all *capable* of inflection through the aspects, voices, moods, and tenses, which belong to the radical of a regular verb. But there are many parts in the full conjugation of some of them where they would be meaningless, and therefore would not be used.

#### VOICES.

Benga verbs have two voices, the active and the passive. Each has a form of its own, with the use of an auxiliary.

#### MOODS.

Benga verbs have five moods: the imperative, indicative, subjunctive, potential, and infinitive.

#### TENSES.

There are seven tenses: the present, immediate past, perfect, historical, pluperfect, first and second future.

The indicative and subjunctive have all these tenses. The potential has two, present and perfect. The imperative has but one, the present. The infinitive has but one.

#### ASPECTS.

Verbs, both regular and irregular, radicals and derivatives, have an affirmative and a negative aspect, for each voice, extending through all the moods and tenses, and which are made partly

without the use of auxiliary particles. An enormous development is thus made by the doubling of every part of every verb.

Negation is expressed (1) by no change in the verb itself, but by peculiar vocal stress, difficult to be recognized or acquired by a foreigner, laid on the nominative. (In Benga that nominative, if a pronoun, is marked with a grave accent, as a sign of negation. But in the adjacent Mpongwe, the negation is indicated by italicising the vowel of the verb's first syllable.) Example: mbi kĕkĕ, shall I go? and mbì kĕkĕ, shall not I go? To acquire the vocal-stress laid on the mbi, the learner will be aided by thinking of the similar vocal-stress laid upon "not" in English.

(2) By a change in the final syllable of the verb itself, e. g., kĕkĕ, go; o kĕke, do not go.

(3) By prefixing the privatives **a**, **u**, and **ha**. Examples: A vahakandi, he wishes; aà vahaka, he wishes not; a vahakindi, he wished; aù vahaka, he wished not; a pâkindi, he came; a ha pâyete, he has not come.

(4) By any two or even three of these ways together; but by whatever other way negation may be indicated, that vocal-stress must also always be used.

(5) Perhaps by a difference in the pronominal nominative itself, as **mbi** affirmative, **mba** negative. (See tables of Personal Pronouns.)

## PERSON AND NUMBER.

Verbs have three persons and two numbers ; but these do not vary the verb, except in the second person plural, which has the suffix *ni* for its termination in all positions.

## IRREGULAR AND DEFECTIVE VERBS.

There are a very small number of defective verbs ; but even these are for the most part regular. The four defective verbs in most frequent use are : *pākâ, taka, vaka, vala*.

They are used only in certain moods and tenses.

## EXAMPLES.

Act. Indic. Pres.	A pākândi, A pândi, (contracted)	} he arrives.
“ “ Perfect.	A pâkiudi, A pâki (contr.) A pâkite	} he arrived.
“ “ Future.	A ka pândi A ka pâte	} he will arrive.
“ “ Neg. Fut.	A pâye,	he will not arrive.
“ “ “ Perf.	A ha pâye A ha pâyete	} he has not arrived
Passive, Ind. Present	A pwi A pwëndi	} he is arrived.
“ “ Perfect.	A pâkudwě A pâdwě (contr.)	} he has been arrived, i. e., brought.
“ “ Future.	A ka pâdwě A ka pâdwëte	} he will be brought.

## TAKA.

The word *taka* means to precede in doing.  
Thus :

This boat was the first to arrive.

Elende tēkae e takindi o pā.

Do your own work first.

Wa ta o ha ehavu 'āvē mētē.

## VAKA.

*Vaka*, come, is in frequent use. Thus :

Come unto me before that I die.

Vak' o 'mba-mbi jadi, n' umba na tak' o wa.

He comes ; he is coming

A vakandi , a vakate.

The boat is coming from the south.

Elende e vakiyandi o diko.

*Ta viya!* First come, i. e., come at once, before doing anything else. *Ta viya* is used interchangeably with *vaka*, except that it would not properly be addressed to a superior.

## VALA.

*Vala*, depart, is in constant use. Thus :

Mbi vahakand' o vala.

I wish to depart.

Mbi valindi.

I have gone.

Valanakia 'mba lēta tēkanē.

Forward for me this letter.

A valanudwē na jonga.

He was transported safely.

## CONTRACTIONS.

There are a few contractions : e. g. (1) the parting salutation mb' 'alandi, I am going, contracted from mbi valandi.

(2) Mb' à 'wě, I do n't know, and its equivalent n' à 'wě, are constantly used, contracted from the negative aspect of the present indicative active of the verb yowaka, know thou.

(3) A contraction from the verb yonyaka, weary thou, e. g.,

O ma yonyě lě o viya.

(Contracted) O ma 'nyě l' o viya.

Why did you fail to come?

(4) 'Mba, na, we, a contraction of umba na, we, "me, thus, please," i. e., a call to attention to what the speaker is about to say.

## SUBSTANTIVE VERBS.

## The verb TO BE.

There is no single verb in the language that deserves to be called the verb of existence. But there are a few substantive verbs, expressing somewhat of the verb TO BE.

## TE.

Te, am, is used only in the present of the indicative and subjunctive moods.

Indicative mood ; present tense.

Singular.		
1st pers.	Mbi te.	I am.
2d pers.	O te.	Thou art.
3d pers.	A te.	He is.
Plural.		
1st pers.	Ho te.	We are.
2d pers.	O teni.	Ye are.
3d pers.	Ba te.	They are.

Subjunctive mood ; present tense.

Singular.		
1st pers.	Oningě mba te.	If I am.
2d pers.	Oningě o te.	If thou art.
3d pers.	Oningě a te.	If he is.
Plural.		
1st pers.	Oningě ho te.	If we are.
2d pers.	Oningě o teni.	If ye are.
3d pers.	Oningě ba te.	If they are.

Other forms are **ndi** and its relative **di**, as :

Ba nd' ovone. They are there.  
 Mâ ndi mâně. That is he.  
 Mâ nd' a velakidi he. He it is who created the earth.  
 Mâ nd' a di bwam'. He it is who is good.

Another form is **i**, e. g.,

A i we. He is there.

Also, **ngite**, e. g.,

A ngite ; a ngite we.  
 He is ; he is there.

Also **jadi** and its relative **didi**, e. g.,

A didi o ndabo tē a ndi mbwei 'amē.  
He who is in that house is my friend.

Hangw' 'ahu a jad' oba.  
Our Father who art in heaven.

Mb' 'aland' o mā-a jadi.  
I am going unto him.

(Literally) I am going where him—he is.

But **jadi** should properly be reckoned as an adverb expressing local personal existence. It is never used towards inanimate objects or lower animals.

Also **bēkē**, use to do, or be accustomed to do, e. g.,

Ho bēkēndi ho haka nonanē.  
We usually do so.

Bapala ba bēkite ba haka mbēmbā tēkadi.  
Our forefathers used to do these customs.

The negative aspect of **te** is **bē** and **ibē**, e. g.

I 'bē nonanē. It is not so.

Indicative mood ; present tense.

## Singular.

1st pers.	Mb' ibē.	I am not.
2d pers.	O ibē.	Thou art not,
3d pers.	A ibē.	He is not.

## Plural.

1st pers.	Ho ibē.	We are not.
2d pers.	O ibēni.	Ye are not.
3d pers.	Ba ibē.	They are not.

These substantive verbs are used somewhat as auxiliaries, e. g.,

Mbi te mbi kéké. I can go, i. e.,  
I am [in that state of existence that] I can go.

Mbi ndi lomwéngo.  
I am sent.

## DIYAKA.

But the regular verb diyaka, live, or dwell, best represents the verb to be, and supplies auxiliaries to all the other verbs, e. g.,

## Imperfect Indicative.

Mbi na { diyandi  
(cont.) diyi } I was.  
“ ” di’

## Pluperfect Indicative.

Mbi ma di’ mb’ akala [or, mba kala].  
I had spoken.

“TE,” AND “NDI” WITH “NA.”

A very commonly used and useful idióm makes **te** and **ndi** with **na** to express possession. Thus :

O te na bejaka ?  
Have you fish ?  
(Literally) Thou art with fish ?  
Inyēni dipá, o ndini na bwam.  
Only ye have goodness.

Or, **na** alone will express the same possession, if **te** or **ndi** are understood, e. g.,

O na 'hiki 'yam'. There is a happy land.  
(Literally) You [are] with a happy land.

**Sāsá!** Please! is an adverbial phrase.



## CONDITIONAL SENTENCES.

There are three pair of correlatives : oningě and vâkâna, or bĕngě ; jaka and te ; and vĕngě lě and kumbakidě na.

## EXAMPLES.

## I.

Oningě wa ha bobē vâkâna o ka vomudwě.  
If thou doest wrong therefore thou shalt be punished.

Oningě wa ta liya bĕngě o ka benja.  
If thou first plantest then thou shalt reap.

## II.

A jaka na Jisu au wa, te ho nyangindi.  
If Jesus had not died we would have been lost.

## III.

O vĕngě lě mba kandidate' âvĕ elombo ehâlĕ, na kumbwakidě na enĕnĕ 'kae.  
How that I forbade you a little thing, and the much rather this great one!

## CONJUGATION OF THE REGULAR VERB.

The following synopsis, which is the complete conjugation of the radical of a regular verb, will give a better idea of the different parts than could be given by any mere explanation.

Synopsis of the verb **o loma**, to send.

## ACTIVE VOICE. AFFIRMATIVE ASPECT.

## IMPERATIVE MOOD.

*Sing.* Lomaka, send thou.  
*Pl.* Lomakani, send ye.

## INDICATIVE MOOD.

*Present tense.*

Lomakandi, send, or am sending.

## Singular.

1st pers. Mbi lomakandi.

2d pers. O lomakandi.

3d pers. A lomakandi.

## Plural.

1st pers. Ho lomakandi.

2d pers. O lomakandini.

3d pers. Ba lomakandi.

*Immediate Past.*

Ma lomandi. Have (recently) sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Mbi ma lomandi.

2d pers. O ma lomandi.

3d pers. A ma lomandi.

## Plural.

1st pers. Ho ma lomandi.

2d pers. O ma lomandini.

3d pers. Ba ma lomandi.

A contracted form of the immediate past is mbi  
ma lomi.

*Perfect.*

Lomindi. Have sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Mbi lomindi.

2d pers. O lomindi.

3d pers. A lomindi.

## Plural.

Ho lomindi.

O lomindini.

Ba lomindi.

*Historical.*

Lomakindi. Sent (long ago).

Sing.	Plural.
1st pers. Mbi lomakindi.	Ho lomakindi.
2d pers. O lomakindi.	O lomakindini.
3d pers. A lomakindi.	Ba lomakindi.

A contracted form of the historical is lomaki.

A relative form of it is lomakidi.

Thus: Simple form :

God created all things.  
Anyambě a velakindi belombo bešhěpi.

Contracted :

It is God who created all things.  
Anyambě nd' a velaki belombo bešhěpi.

Relative :

God is He who created all things.  
Anyambě mâ nd' a velakidi belombo bešhěpi.

Indeed, any part of the verb capable of a relative meaning can be made so in form by the substitution of **di** for final **ndi**.

The historical has also a narrative form,

K' umba mba loma.

*Pluperfect.*

Ma di' mba loma. Had sent.

Singular.

1st pers. Mbi ma di' mba loma.  
2d pers. O ma di' wa loma.  
3d pers. A ma diyand' a loma.

## Plural.

- 1st pers. Ho ma di' hwa loma.  
 2d pers. O ma diyandini wa lomani.  
 3d pers. Ba ma di' ba loma.

Di' is a contraction of diyandi, immediate past of the verb diyaka.

SUGGESTION. It is possible that the interjected **a**, in mba loma, belongs to the verb itself, and not to the subject pronoun. Arguments for this possibility are, (1) the fact that **a** is so interjected in parts of the verb in the cognate Mpongwe and (probably) of the Fañ dialects. (2) By admitting this **a** as part of the verb, the apparently irregular forms **mba**, **wa**, etc., of the pronoun would have no necessity for existence. The pluperfect would then be written thus :

## Singular.

- 1st pers. Mbi ma di' mbi aloma.  
 2d pers. O ma di' o aloma.  
 3d pers. A ma diyand' a aloma.

## Plural.

- 1st pers. Ho ma di' ho aloma.  
 2d pers. O ma diyandini o lomani.  
 3d pers. Ba ma di' ba aloma.

By elision the above and all similar tenses would then be written thus :

## Singular.

- 1st pers. Mbi ma di' mb'-aloma.  
 2d pers. O ma di' o-aloma.  
 3d pers. A ma diyand' a 'loma.

## Plural.

- 1st pers. Ho ma di' ho-aloma.  
 2d pers. O ma diyandini o-alomani.  
 3d pers. Ba ma di' b'-aloma.

And pronounced, by coalescence and other contractions, as if thus :

## Singular.

- 1st pers. Mbi ma di' mb' aloma.  
 2d pers. O ma di' wa 'loma.  
 3d pers. A ma diyand' a 'loma.

## Plural.

- 1st pers. Ho ma di' hwa 'loma.  
 2d pers. O ma diyandini wa 'lomani.  
 3d pers. Ba ma di' ba 'loma.

*First Future.*

**Ka lomandi. Will or shall send.**

## Singular.

- 1st pers. Mbi ka lomandi.  
 2d pers. O ka lomandi.  
 3d pers. A ka lomandi.

## Plural.

- Ho ka lomandi.  
 O ka lomandini.  
 Ba ka lomandi.

There is a contingent form of the future, "When I shall send."

## Singular.

- 1st pers. O 'mba-mbi ka loma.  
 2d pers. O âvê-o ka loma.  
 3d pers. O mâ-a ka loma.

## Plural.

- 1st pers. O hwě-ho ka loma.  
 2d pers. O inyěni-o ka lomani.  
 3d pers. O bâ-ba ka loma.

*Second Future.*

Ka diyi aloma. Will or shall have sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Mbi ka diyi mba loma,	or, mb' aloma, mba 'loma.
2d pers. O ka diyi wa loma,	" o-aloma, wa 'loma.
3d pers. A ka diyand' a loma,	" a-aloma, a 'loma.

## Plural.

1st pers. Ho ka diyi hwa loma,	or, ho-aloma, hwa 'loma.
2d pers. O ka diyandini wa lomani,	" o-alomani, wa 'lomani.
3d pers. Ba ka diyi ba loma,	" ba-aloma, ba 'loma.

## SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD.

All the tenses of this mood are formed from the corresponding tenses of the indicative, by prefixing the phrase, *oningë na*, "if, thus." The present, pluperfect, and second future have also the form of *a* interjected between the pronoun and the verb.

*Present tense.*

Oningë na lomakandi. If send.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningë na mbi lomakandi.
2d pers. Oningë na o lomakandi.
3d pers. Oningë na a lomakandi.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningë na ho lomakandi.
2d pers. Oningë na o lomakandini.
3d pers. Oningë na ba lomakandi.

**Another form.**

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě mb' a loma,	or, mb' aloma.
2d pers. Oningě o-a loma,	" wa n.
3d pers. Oningě a-a loma,	" a 'loma.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě ho-a loma,	or, hwa 'loma.
2d pers. Oningě o-a lomani,	" wa 'lomani.
3d pers. Oningě ba-a loma,	" ba 'loma.

See suggestion on page 71.

*Immediate Past.*

**Oningě na ma lomandi. If (recently) sent.**

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mbi ma lomandi.
2d pers. Oningě na o ma lomandi.
3d pers. Oningě na a ma lomandi

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na ho ma lomandi.
2d pers. Oningě na o ma lomandini.
3d pers. Oningě na ba ma lomandi.

*Perfect.*

**Oningě na lomindi. If have sent.**

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mbi lomindi.
2d pers. Oningě na o lomindi.
3d pers. Oningě na a lomindi.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na ho lomindi.
2d pers. Oningě na o lomindini.
3d pers. Oningě na ba lomindi.

*Historical.*

Oningě na lomakindi. If (long ago) sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mbi lomakindi.

2d pers. Oningě na o lomakindi.

3d pers. Oningě na a lomakindi.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na ho lomakindi.

2d pers. Oningě na o lomakindini.

3d pers. Oningě na ba lomakindi.

*Pluperfect.*

Oningě na ma di' a loma. [Aloma] If had sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mbi ma di' mb' a loma.

2d pers. Oningě na o ma di' o-a loma.

3d pers. Oningě na a ma di' a-a loma.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na ho ma di' ho-a loma.

2d pers. Oningě na o ma diyandini o-a lomani.

3d pers. Oningě na ba ma di' b'-a loma.

See suggestion on page 71 for Aloma.

*First Future.*

Oningě na ka lomandi. If shall or will send.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mbi ka lomandi.

2d pers. Oningě na o ka lomandi.

3d pers. Oningě na a ka lomandi.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na ho ka lomandi.

2d pers. Oningě na o ka lomandini.

3d pers. Oningě na ba ka lomandi.



## Special form.

## Oningě lomingě.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě mbi lomingě.

2d pers. Oningě o lomingě.

3d pers. Oningě a lomingě.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě ho lomingě.

2d pers. Oningě o lomingěni.

3d pers. Oningě ba lomingě.

This is the form most commonly used in conversation.

*Second Future.*

Oningě na ka di' a loma [Aloma].

If shall or will have sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mbi ka di' mb'-a loma, or, mb' aloma.

2d pers. Oningě na o ka di' o-a loma, " wa 'loma.

3d pers. Oningě na a ka diyand' a-a loma, " a 'loma.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na ho ka di' ho-a loma, or, hwa 'loma.

2d pers. Oningě na o ka diyandini o-a lomani, " wa 'lomani.

3d pers. Oningě na ba ka di' b'-a loma, " b' aloma.

See suggestion on page 71 for Aloma.

## POTENTIAL MOOD.

*Present tense.*

## First form.

T' o loma. May or must send.

This form of the present potential takes for its

auxiliary **ta**, a contraction of the defective verb **taka**.

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mbi t' o loma.	Ho t' o loma.
2d pers. O t' o loma.	O t' o lomani.
3d pers. A t' o loma.	Ba t' o loma.

### Second form.

Te lomaka. Can send.

This form takes its auxiliary from the substantive verb **te**, "to be."

Singular.	
1st pers. Mbi te mbi lomaka.	
2d pers. O te o lomaka.	O t' o lomaka.
3d pers. A te a lomaka.	A t' a lomaka.

Plural.	
1st pers. Ho te ho lomaka.	
2d pers. O teni o lomakani.	
3d pers. Ba te ba lomaka.	

### *Perfect and Historical.*

Te! lomakindi. Should have sent.

The auxiliary sign of this tense is the interjection of regret, **te!** Would that I had done so-and-so.

Singular.	
1st pers. Te mbi lomakindi.	
2d pers. T' o lomakindi.	
3d pers. T' a lomakindi.	

Plural.	
1st pers. Te ho lomakindi.	
2d pers. T' o lomakindini.	
3d pers. Te ba lomakindi.	

## INFINITIVE MOOD.

*Present tense.*

O loma. To send.

E. g., mbi vahakand' o loma 'vë. I wish to send you.

*Future.*

Ka loma. To send.

E. g., mbi pândi ka loma mâ. I come to send him.

*Participle.*

Lomaka. Sending.

## VERBAL NOUNS.

Noun abstract, Iloma, a sending.  
 Noun of agency, Ulomi, a sender.  
 Noun of mode, Ilomidi, manner of sending.  
 Noun of locality, Ilomanido, place of sending.  
 Noun diminutive, Viloloma, a little sending.  
 Noun of intensity, Ilomalomwë, a special sending.

## ACTIVE VOICE. NEGATIVE ASPECT.

## IMPERATIVE MOOD.

*Sing.* O lomake. Send thou not.

*Pl.* O lomakeni. Send ye not.

## INDICATIVE MOOD.

*Present tense.*

A lomaka. Send not.

	Singular.	Plural.
1st pers.	Mb'â lomaka.	E'â lomaka.
2d pers.	Oâ lomaka.	Oâ lomakeni.
3d pers.	Aâ lomaka.	E'â lomaka.

In this and all subsequent tenses the reader will apply for himself the rule of coalescence, making **oa**, **ou**, and **hoa** respectively **wa**, **wu**, and **hwa**.

*Immediate Past.*

U loma. Did not (recently) send.

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mb' u loma.	H' u loma.
2d pers. Ou loma.	Ou lomani.
3d pers. Au loma.	B' u loma.

*Perfect.*

U lomaka. Have not sent.

## First form.

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mb' u lomaka.	H' u lomaka.
2d pers. Ou lomaka.	Ou lomakani.
3d pers. Au lomaka.	B' u lomaka.

## Second form. Ha lome.

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mbi ha lome.	Ho ha lome.
2d pers. O ha lome.	O ha lomeni.
3d pers. A ha lome.	Ba ha lome.

*Historical.*

Did not send (long ago).

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mb' u lomaka.	H' u lomaka.
2d pers. Ou lomaka.	Ou lomakani.
3d pers. Au lomaka.	B' u lomaka.

*Pluperfect.*

U diya a loma [Aloma?]. Had not sent.

## Singular

1st pers. Mb'u diya mba loma.

2d pers. Ou diya wa loma.

3d pers. Au diya a loma.

## Plural.

1st pers. H'u diya hwa loma.

2d pers. Ou diyani wa lomani.

3d pers. B'u diya ba loma.

*First Future.*

A lome [Alome?]. Shall or will not send.

## Singular.

1st pers. Mb'à lome.

2d pers. Oà lome.

3d pers. Aà lome.

## Plural.

Hoà loma.

Oà lomani.

B' à lome.

*Second Future.*

A diye a loma [Aloma?].  
Shall or will not have sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Mb'à diye mb'à loma.

2d pers. Oà diye oà loma.

3d pers. Aà diye aà loma.

## Plural.

1st pers. Hoà diye hoà loma.

2d pers. Oà diyeni oà lomani.

3d pers. B'à diye b'à loma.

## SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD.

*Present tense.*

## Special form.

Oningě lome. If send not.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě mbi lome.

2d pers. Oningě o lome.

3d pers. Oningě a lome.

## Plural.

Oningě ho lome.

Oningě o lomeni.

Oningě ba lome.

All the tenses of the active negative subjunctive are formed by prefixing oningě na ("if so") to the corresponding tenses of active negative indicative.

*Present.*

Oningě na a lomaka [Alomaka?]. If not send.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mb' a lomaka.

2d pers. Oningě na oà lomaka.

3d pers. Oningě na aà lomaka.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oninge na hoà lomaka.

2d pers. Oningě na oà lomakani.

3d pers. Oninge na b'à lomaka.

*Immediate Past.*

U loma. Did not (recently) send.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mb' u loma.

2d pers. Oninge na ou loma.

3d pers. Oninge na au loma.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na h' u loma.

2d pers. Oningě na ou lomani.

3d pers. Oningě na b' u loma.

*Perfect.*

Oningě na ha lome. If have not sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mbi ha lome.

2d pers. Oningě na o ha lome.

3d pers. Oningě na a ha lome.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na ho ha lome.

2d pers. Oningě na o ha lomeni.

3d pers. Oningě na ba ha lome.

*Historical.*

Oningě na u lomaka. If sent not (long ago).

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mb' u lomaka.

2d pers. Oningě na ou lomaka.

3d pers. Oningě na au lomaka.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na h' u lomaka.

2d pers. Oningě na ou lomakani.

3d pers. Oningě b' u lomaka.

*Pluperfect.*

Oningě na u diya a loma [Aloma?]

If had not sent (long ago).

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mb' u diya mb' a loma

2d pers. Oningě na ou diya wa loma.

3d pers. Oningě na au diya a loma.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na h' u diya hwa loma.

2d pers. Oningě na ou diya wa lomani.

3d pers. Oningě na b' u diya ba loma.

*First Future.*

Oningě na a lome. If shall or will not send.

Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mb' à lome.

2d pers. Oninge na oà lome.

3d pers. Oningě na aà lome.

Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na hoà lome.

2d pers. Oningě na oà lomani.

3d pers. Oningě na b' à lome.

*Second Future.*

Oningě na a diye a loma [Aloma?]

If shall or will not have sent.

Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mb' à diye mb' à loma.

2d pers. Oningě na oà diye oà loma.

3d pers. Oningě na aà diye aà loma.

Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na hoà diye hoà loma.

2d pers. Oningě na oà diyeni oà lomani.

3d pers. Oningě na b' à diye b' à loma.

POTENTIAL MOOD.

*Present tense.*

A lomi. May not send.

Singular.

Plural

1st pers. Mb' à lomi.

Hoà lomi.

2d pers. Oà lomi.

Oà lomini.

3d pers. Aà lomi.

B' à lomi.

This present tense can be expressed also by a



circumlocutory use of the phrase mbi 'bě na ngudi,  
I have not ability. Thus : Cannot send.

## Singular.

1st pers. Mbi 'bě na ngudi mbi lomaka.

2d pers. O 'bě na ngudi o lomaka.

3d pers. A 'bě na ngudi a lomaka.

## Plural.

1st pers. Ho 'bě na ngudi ho lomaka.

2d pers. O 'běni na ngudi o lomakeni.

3d pers. Ba 'bě na ngudi ba lomaka.

*Perfect.*

Te! u lomaka. Would had not sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Te! mb' u lomaka.

2d pers. Te! ou lomaka.

3d pers. Te! au lomaka.

## Plural.

Te! h' u lomaka.

Te! ou lomakani.

Te! b' u lomaka.

## PASSIVE VOICE. AFFIRMATIVE ASPECT.

## IMPERATIVE MOOD.

*Sing.* Lomakwě. Be thou sent.*Pl.* Lomakwěni. Be ye sent.

## INDICATIVE MOOD.

*Present tense.*

Am sent.

First Form. Lomakwěndi.

## Singular.

1st pers. Mbi lomakwěndi.

2d pers. O lomakwěndi.

3d pers. A lomakwěndi.

## Plural.

Ho lomakwěndi.

O lomakwěndini.

Ba lomakwěndi.

**Second Form. Ndi lomwëngo.**

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mbi ndi lomwëngo.	Ho ndi lomwëngo.
2d pers. O ndi lomwëngo.	O ndini lomwëngo.
3d pers. A ndi lomwëngo.	Ba ndi lomwëngo.

**Third form. A lomwëndi. [Alomwëndi?]**

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers Mb'a lomwëndi.	Hoa lomwëndi.
2d pers. Oa lomwëndi.	Oa lomwëndini.
3d pers. Aa lomwëndi.	B'a lomwëndi.

*Immediate Past.***Ma lomwëndi. Was sent (recently).**

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mbi ma lomwëndi.	Ho ma lomwëndi.
2d pers. O ma lomwëndi.	O ma lomwëndini.
3d pers. A ma lomwëndi.	Ba ma lomwëndi.

*Perfect.***Lomudwëndi. Have been sent.**

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mbi lomudwëndi.	Ho lomudwëndi.
2d pers. O lomudwëndi.	O lomudwëndini.
3d pers. A lomudwëndi.	Ba lomudwëndi.

*Historical.***Lomakudwëndi. Have been sent (long ago).**

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mbi lomakudwëndi.	Ilo lomakudwëndi.
2d pers. O lomakudwëndi.	O lomakudwëndini.
3d pers. A lomakudwëndi.	Ba lomakudwëndi.

*Pluperfect.*

Had been sent.

**First form. Diyaki lomwě. [Alomwě?]**

Singular.

- 1st pers. Mbi diyaki mba lomwě.  
 2d pers. O diyaki wa lomwě.  
 3d pers. A diyakind' a lomwě.

Plural.

- 1st pers. Ho diyaki hwa lomwě  
 2d pers. { O diyakindini wa lomwě. }  
           { O diyaki wa lomwěni. }  
 3d pers. Ba diyaki ba lomwě.

**Second form. Diyaki lomwěngo.**

Singular.

- 1st pers. Mbi diyaki lomwěngo.  
 2d pers. O diyaki lomwěngo.  
 3d pers. A diyakindi lomwěngo.

Plural.

- 1st pers. Ho diyaki lomwěngo.  
 2d pers. O diyakindini lomwěngo.  
 3d pers. Ba diyaki lomwěngo.

*First Future.***Ka lomwěndi. Will be sent.**

Singular.

- 1st pers. Mbi ka lomwěndi.  
 2d pers. O ka lomwěndi.  
 3d pers. A ka lomwěndi.

Plural.

- Ho ka lomwěndi.  
 O ka lomwěndini.  
 Ba ka lomwěndi.

*Second Future.*

**Ka diyi lomwë [Alomwë?]. Will have been sent.**

## Singular.

- 1st pers. Mbi ka diyi mba lomwë.  
 2d pers. O ka diyi wa lomwë.  
 3d pers. A ka diyand' a lomwë.

## Plural.

- 1st pers. Ho ka diyi hwâ lomwë.  
 2d pers. { O ka diyandini wa lomwë. }  
           { O ka diyandi wa lomwëni. }  
 3d pers. Ba ka diyi ba lomwë.

## SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD.

Formed by prefixing *oningë na* to the tenses of the indicative passive affirmative.

*Present tense.*

**Oningë lomwë. [Alomwë?] If am sent.**

## Singular.

## Plural.

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1st pers. Oningë mba lomwë. | Oningë hwa lomwë.  |
| 2d pers. Oningë wa lomwë.   | Oningë wa lomwëni. |
| 3d pers. Oningë a lomwë.    | Oningë ba lomwë.   |

*Immediate Past.*

**Oningë na ma lomwëndi. If was sent.**

## Singular.

- 1st pers. Oningë na mbi ma lomwëndi.  
 2d pers. Oningë na o ma lomwëndi.  
 3d pers. Oningë na a ma lomwëndi.

## Plural.

- 1st pers. Oningë na ho ma lomwëndi.  
 2d pers. Oningë na o ma lomwëndini.  
 3d pers. Oningë na ba ma lomwëndi.

*Perfect.*

Oningě na lomakudwěndi. If have been sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mbi lomakudwěndi.

2d pers. Oningě na o lomakudwěndi.

3d pers. Oningě na a lomakudwěndi.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na ho lomakudwěndi.

2d pers. Oningě na o lomakudwěndini.

3d pers. Oningě na ba lomakudwěndi.

*Historical.*

Same as the perfect.

*Pluperfect.*

If had been sent.

First form. Oningě na diyaki lomwě. [Alomwě ?]

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mbi diyaki mba lomwě.

2d pers. Oningě na o diyaki wa lomwě.

3d pers. Oningě na a diyaki a lomwě.

## Plural.

1st pers. Oningě na ho diyaki hwa lomwě.

2d pers. { Oningě na o diyakindini wa lomwě. }  
 { Oningě na o diyaki wa lomwěni. }

3d pers. Oningě na ba diyaki ba lomwě.

Second form. Oningě na diyaki lomwěngo.

## Singular.

1st pers. Oningě na mbi diyaki lomwěngo.

2d pers. Oningě na o diyaki lomwěngo.

3d pers. Oningě na a diyakindi lomwěngo.

Plural.

- 1st pers. Oningě na ho diyaki lomwěngo.  
 2d pers. Oningě na o diyakindini lomwěngo.  
 3d pers. Oningě na ba diyaki lomwěngo.

*First Future.*

**Oningě na ka lomwěndi. If shall be sent.**

Singular.

- 1st pers. Oningě na mbi ka lomwěndi.  
 2d pers. Oningě na o ka lomwěndi.  
 3d pers. Oningě na a ka lomwěndi.

Plural.

- 1st pers. Oningě na ho ka lomwěndi.  
 2d pers. Oningě na o ka lomwěndini.  
 3d pers. Oningě na ba ka lomwěndi.

*Second Future.*

**Oningě na ka diyi lomwě. [Alomwě ?]**

**If will have been sent.**

Singular.

- 1st pers. Oningě na mbi ka diyi mba lomwě.  
 2d pers. Oningě na o ka diyi wa lomwě.  
 3d pers. Oningě na a ka diyand' a lomwě.

Plural.

- 1st pers. Oningě na ho ka diyi hwa lomwě.  
 2d pers. { Oningě na o ka diyandini wa lomwě. }  
           { Oningě na o ka diyandi wa lomwěni. }  
 3d pers. Oningě na ba ka diyi ba lomwě.

## POTENTIAL MOOD.

*Present tense.*

**First form. Ta o lomwě. May be sent.**

Singular.

Plural.

1st pers. Mbi t' o lomwě.

Ho t' o lomwě.

2d pers. O t' o lomwě.

O t' o lomwěni.

3d pers. A t' o lomwě.

Ba t' o lomwě.

**Second form. Te lomakwě. Can be sent.**

Singular.

1st pers. Mbi te mbi lomakwě.

2d pers. O t' o lomakwě.

3d pers. A t' a lomakwě.

Plural.

1st pers. Ho te ho lomakwě.

2d pers. { O teni o lomakwě. }

{ O t' o lomakwěni. }

3d pers. Ba te ba lomakwě.

## INFINITIVE MOOD.

O lomwě. } To be sent.  
Ka lomwě. }

*Participle.*

Lomwěngo. Sent.

## VERBAL NOUNS.

Abstract, Ilomwě, a message.

Agency, Ulomwě, a messenger.

Diminutive, Vilolomwě, a little message.

## PASSIVE VOICE. NEGATIVE ASPECT.

## IMPERATIVE MOOD.

*Sing.* O lomakwě. Be thou not sent.*Pl.* O lomakwěni. Be ye not sent.

## INDICATIVE MOOD.

*Present tense.*

Am not sent.

## First form. À lomakwě.

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mb' à lomakwě.	Hoà lomakwe.
2d pers. Oà lomakwě.	Oà lomakwěni.
3d pers. Aà lomakwě	B' à lomakwě.

## Second form. À lomwě.

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mb' à lomwě,	Hoà lomwě.
2d pers. Oà lomwě.	Oà lomwěni.
3d pers. Aà lomwě.	B' à lomwě.

## Third form. Ibě lomwěngo.

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mb' ibě lomwěngo.	Ho ibě lomwengo.
2d pers. O ibě lomwěngo.	O iběni lomwěngo.
3d pers. A ibě lomwěngo.	Ba ibě lomwěngo.

## Fourth form. Ha lomwě.

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mbi ha lomwě.	Ho ha lomwě.
2d pers. O ha lomwě.	O ha lomwěni.
3d pers. A ha lomwě	Ba ha lomwě.



*Immediate Past.*

U lomwě. Was not sent.

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mb' u lomwě.	H' u lomwě.
2d pers. Ou lomwě.	Ou lomwěni.
3d pers. Au lomwě.	B' u lomwě.

*Perfect.*

U lomakwě. Have not been sent.

Singular.	Plural.
1st pers. Mb' u lomakwě.	H' u lomakwě.
2d pers. Ou lomakwě.	Ou lomakwěni.
3d pers. Au lomakwě.	B' u lomakwě.

*Historical.*

Same as the perfect.

*Pluperfect.*

Had not been sent.

First form. Diyaka a lomwě. [Alomwě?]

Singular.
1st pers. Mb' u diyaka mba lomwě.
2d pers. Ou diyaka wa lomwě.
3d pers. Au diyaka a lomwě.

Plural.
1st pers. H' u diyaka hwa lomwě.
2d pers. { Ou diyakani wa lomwě. }
{ Ou diyaka wa lomwěni. }
3d pers. B' u diyaka ba lomwě.

Second form. U diyaka lomwëngo.

Singular.

- 1st pers. Mb' u diyaka lomwëngo.  
 2d pers. Ou diyaka lomwëngo.  
 3d pers. Au diyaka lomwëngo.

Plural.

- 1st pers. H' u diyaka lomwëngo.  
 2d pers. Ou diyakani lomwëngo.  
 3d pers. B' u diyaka lomwëngo.

*First Future.*

À lomwë. Will not be sent.

Singular.

Plural.

- |                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1st pers. Mb' à lomwë. | Hoà lomwë.  |
| 2d pers. Oà lomwë.     | Oà lomwëni. |
| 3d pers. Aà lomwë.     | B' à lomwë. |

*Second Future.*

À diye a lomwë. [Alomwë?]  
 Will not have been sent.

Singular.

- 1st pers. Mb' à diye mba lomwë.  
 2d pers. Oà diye wa lomwë  
 3d pers. Aà diye a lomwë.

Plural.

- 1st pers. Hoà diye hwa lomwë.  
 2d pers. { Oà diyeni wa lomwë. }  
           { Oà diye wa lomwëni. }  
 3d pers. B' à diye ba lomwë.

## SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD.

Formed by prefixing *oningě na* to the tenses of the indicative passive negative.

*Present tense.*

**Oningě lomwě. If not sent.**

	Singular.	Plural.
1st pers.	Oningě mbi lomwě.	Oningě ho lomwě.
2d pers.	Oningě o lomwě.	Oningě o lomwěni.
3d pers.	Oningě a lomwě.	Oningě ba lomwě.

*Immediate Past.*

**Oningě na u lomwě. If was not sent (recently).**

## Singular.

1st pers.	Oningě na mb' u lomwě.
2d pers.	Oningě na ou lomwě.
3d pers.	Oningě na au lomwě.

## Plural.

1st pers.	Oningě na h' u lomwě.
2d pers.	Oningě na ou lomwěni.
3d pers.	Oningě na b' u lomwě.

*Perfect.*

**Oningě na u lomakwě. If have not been sent.**

## Singular.

1st pers.	Oningě na mb' u lomakwě.
2d pers.	Oningě na ou lomakwě.
3d pers.	Oningě na au lomakwě.

## Plural.

1st pers.	Oningě na h' u lomakwě.
2d pers.	Oningě na ou lomakwěni.
3d pers.	Oningě na b' u lomakwě.

*Historical.*

Same as the perfect.

*Pluperfect.*

Oningě na u diyaka a lomwě. [Alomwě?]  
If had not been sent.

## Singular.

- 1st pers. Oningě na mb' u diyaka mba lomwě.  
2d pers. Oningě na ou diyaka wa lomwě.  
3d pers. Oningě na au diyaka a lomwě.

## Plural.

- 1st pers. Oningě na h' u diyaka hwa lomwě.  
2d pers. { Oningě na ou diyakani wa lomwě. }  
          { Oningě na ou diyaka wa lomwěni. }  
3d pers. Oningě na b' u diyaka ba lomwě.

*First Future.*

Oningě na à lomwě. If will not be sent.

## Singular.

- 1st pers. Oningě na mb' à lomwě.  
2d pers. Oningě na oà lomwě.  
3d pers. Oningě na nà lomwě.

## Plural.

- 1st pers. Oningě na hoà lomwě.  
2d pers. Oningě na oà lomwěni.  
3d pers. Oningě na b' à lomwě.

*Second Future.*

Oningě na à diye a lomwě. [Alomwě?]  
If will not have been sent.

## Singular.

- 1st pers. Oningě na mb' à diye mba lomwě.  
2d pers. Oningě na oà diye wa lomwě.  
3d pers. Oningě na aà diye a lomwě.

## Plural.

1st pers.	Oningě na hoà diye hwa lomwě.
2d pers.	{ Oningě na oà diyeni wa lomwě. }
	{ Oningě na oà diye wa lomwěni. }
3d pers.	Oningě b' à diye ba lomwě.

## POTENTIAL MOOD.

*Present tense.*

May not be sent.

First form. À lomwě.

## Singular.

1st pers. Mb' à lomwě.

2d pers. Oà lomwě.

3d pers. Aà lomwě.

## Plural.

Hoà lomwě.

Oà lomwěni.

B' à lomwě.

Second form. Ibě na ngudi e lomakwě.

Cannot be sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Mb' ibě na ngudi e lomakwě.

2d pers. O ibě na ngudi e lomakwě.

3d pers. A ibě na ngudi e lomakwě.

## Plural.

1st pers. Ho ibě na ngudi e lomakwě.

2d pers. { O iběni na ngudi e lomakwě. }

{ O ibě na ngudi e lomakwěni. }

3d pers. Ba ibě na ngudi e lomakwě.

*Perfect.*

Te! u lomakudwe. Would! not have been sent.

## Singular.

1st pers. Te! mb' u lomakudwě.

2d pers. Te! ou lomakudwě.

3d pers. T' au lomakudwě.

## Plural.

Te! h' u lomakudwě.

Te! ou lomakudwěni.

Te! b' u lomakudwě.

All the other species, frequentative, lomakate; relative, lomakiya; reciprocal, lomanaka; and causative, lomakidě; and their compounds, recipro-frequentative, lomanakate; recipro-relative, lomankiya; recipro-causative, lomanakidě, are capable of being conjugated through both aspects of both voices, and in all moods and tenses (as far as meaning will allow), with tense signs and terminations the same as in the above paradigm of the radical lomaka.

And the several kinds of verbal nouns can be derived from each of the above-named species, limited only by their capacity for meanings, e. g.,

Ilomiya,	}	Relative.
Ulomiya,		
Ilomidě,	}	Causative.
Ulomidě,		
Ilomana,	}	Reciprocal.
Ulomani,		

### PARTICIPLES.

This part of Benga speech does not exactly coincide with the English participle. There are only two, and they are used only in the present.

Active, present. Lomaka, sending.

Passive "            Lomakwě, }  
                          Lomwěngo, } sent.

EXAMPLE.

Anyambě a na kěngâ, a lomaka mbwiya o bayamu na babe tepě ta.

God is kind, sending rain on good and bad both together.

Also there is another participial form, in the use of the intensive adverb **bo**, only, e. g., **bo-tân-dâkâ**, loving, simply, or entirely loving; **bo-vêhêkê**, scorning utterly.

### ADVERBS.

The number of adverbs in the Benga language is not great; but they can readily be increased by the use of adverbial phrases consisting of the preposition **o** and certain nouns of place, time, manner, etc.

#### ADVERBS OF PLACE.

Oba. Above.

Okava. Here.

Ovoně. There.

Okaoni. Off there.

Okavani. There (farther off).

Ove. Where.

Ulânga. Westward. (Literally, O 'lânga, "to the deep," i. e., of the sea.)

O boho. Forward. (Literally, "to the face," i. e., faceward.)

O mbuhwa. Behind. (Literally, "to the rear.")

O he. Below, "to the ground."

Bo. Far.

Baka, baka na. Beside, alongside.

Yaviděngo. Far away.

Piële. Near.

Kwanga. Until, clear unto.

We. There, to the very end, ultimately.  
 Jadi. Unto.

## ADVERBS OF TIME.

Pâni. At once, this moment.  
 O buhwa. To-day.  
 Vaiko. Yesterday.  
 O vake. To-morrow.  
 Wâwâ. Quickly.  
 Ngwambe. Hastily.  
 Pwâpwâ. In a hurry.  
 Kya. Now. (O kya tēkanē, "at this present  
 [time].")  
 Kwēi. Presently, after a while.  
 N' ivâkwē. At another [time].  
 O vyo. Formerly. ("To the old [time].")

## ADVERBS OF QUANTITY.

Bo. Only, simply.  
 Mětě. Very.  
 Kabo. Only.  
 Kwě. A little.  
 Twětว์. Sufficient.  
 Pa. Solely, absolutely.  
 Tepě. Also.  
 Paniango. Exactly, just as.

## ADVERBS OF DOUBT.

Oningě. If.  
 Ipě. Perhaps, if.  
 O banga. Lest. (Literally, "to fear.")  
 Pagate. If only.



## ADVERBS OF MANNER.

- Dipâ. Alone.  
 O bwe, bwebwe. Openly, "to the light."  
 Kyâ. Cut off short.  
 Na. Thus, namely, viz.  
 Nandi. Therefore.  
 Ta. Together.  
 Kâ. Tremblingly, hesitatingly.  
 Kakana. In this manner, thus.  
 Ka. As.  
 Ka na. As if.  
 Pani ka. Like manner, like unto.

## ADVERBS OF AFFIRMATION.

- Ayě. Ai. Yes (of response).  
 E. Yes (of assent).  
 Nonaně. It is so.  
 Nande. Certainly.  
 Nande lě. Why not?  
 Pâkwěpâkwě. Verily, truly.  
 Mbambae. Truly.  
 Vâkâna. Then, therefore, so.

## ADVERBS OF NEGATION.

- Nyawě. No.  
 Hanga. Not.

Besides single words, as in the above lists, many phrases are used adverbially, just as in English.

## EXAMPLES.

Mbi ka yēnēte, I will see (implying doubt, or refusal).

Egombe yēhēpi, All the time, for ever.

Sāsā, Please to do so ; if it please you.

Such adverbial phrases are very numerous.

PREPOSITIONS.

There are very few. Preposition **a**, of, is capable of being varied, in likeness to the alliterative form of the noun with which it agrees, and forming the adjunct or link to the noun which it governs, as described under nouns and pronouns. Thus :

## CLASSES OF NOUNS.

Sing.	1st ea	2d ja	3d mua	4th boa	5th mua	6th ua	7th via	8th ea
Pl.	bea	ma	mea	mea	ba	ba	la	ja

The single preposition **o** supplies the place of a large number of those in use in the English language. To, from, on, upon, over, in, against, and others are represented by it.

The other in most frequent use is **na**, with.

## EXAMPLES.

Baka na (Baka, near ; na, to), beside.

Piēle na (piēle, near ; na, to), near to.

Oviya (o, in ; viya, coming), from.

The preposition **o**, when used before the name of a person, or before a personal pronoun, is always followed by **jadi**.

## EXAMPLES.

Mb' 'aland' o Mediko a jadi.  
I am going unto Mediko.

Mba viyand' o m̄a-a jadi.  
I have come from him [where him-he is].

As **jadi** expresses *personal* local existence, it is not used after common nouns, unless they indicate a person or persons, e. g.,

A vakiyend o bato ba jadi.  
He came unto mankind.

See **jadi** in the list of defective and irregular verbs.

## CONJUNCTIONS.

These are copulative and disjunctive.

Those most frequently in use are :

Oningĕ. If.

Na. And.

Kabo. Except.

Kabojana, ikabojana, jambojana, kaboja. Because.

Tombekete, tombete, tombe. Either, or.

Also the correlatives : Oningĕ and vākāna, or bĕngĕ ; jaka and te. (See examples under defective and irregular verbs.)

## INTERJECTIONS.

Single words used as interjections are not numerous. Emĕ is used when something extraordi-

nary is seen or heard. Bamâni is an expression of surprise or grief; te, of regret. Saba and sabali, used interrogatively, are equivalent to, True? Is it true? But, used positively, they are of the nature of an oath.

Phrases used as exclamations abound, some of which mean in English as follows: "Oh! my mother!" "Oh! my father!" "Oh! son of my mother!" Often the name alone of the father or mother is used.

Sâsâ, please! is used more especially by children or inferiors, in asking a favor.

We? is a courteous softening of an order, or polite call to attention to some address or statement. Thus, a teacher to his pupil, or friend to a companion, begins his statement, Mba na, we? as if to say, "I speak to you; listen." And friend to a friend, or master to a willing servant, Hak' ekae, we. "Do this, please."

Occasionally an expression, often of a slangy nature, originates from some trifling cause, and is in every one's mouth for a little while, and then again falls into disuse.

Mbolo is a salutation, with its plural mboloani. The inferior always first addresses the superior, the child the parent, the servant the master, the host the guest. The claims of hospitality are carried so far that a king, if a host, is thereby the "inferior" of a child or even of a slave, the child being, for

the time, his guest. (This was literally exact formerly, until, in places where foreign influences prevail, there has been substituted an indiscriminate and meaningless hand-shaking.) The person thus saluted responds, "Ai, mbolo." The plural mbo-loani, though intended for the whole company of strangers or guests, is (where politeness is regarded) addressed to their leader or eldest one, by name. Mbolo means "gray hairs," and the salutation is equivalent to "may you live to old age!"

Among intimate friends, or as a courtly salutation from a chief, is used the word sale and its plural saleni, e. g., sale, welcome! Bangi, saleni, Hail, strangers! And then when this effusive welcome has quieted down, the dignified "mbolo" should invariably be added.

Among affectionate friends, both men and women, but more especially among women, samba! precedes the usual mbolo. The host, seeing the visitor coming, advances rapidly with extended arms, ejaculating, "Iyě! iyě," and as the friends meet, they fall on to each the other's shoulder, clasping each their own hands on the other's back, with a prolonged samba-a-a!

Many other forms of salutation there are, used, as in civilized countries, only among equals, or with a streak of humor, equivalent to our, "Top-o'-the-morning!" "How are you, old fellow," etc.

Te! Would so-and-so! has already been mentioned as an adverb.

## INTERROGATION.

Interrogation is expressed, not only as in all languages, by the inflection of voice, but also by the particles **we** and **lě** and **ě**.

**We** has already been mentioned both as an adverb and as an interjection. It not only softens the asperity of a command, but closes all respectful requests, e. g.,

O ka hanaka 'mba, we.  
Will you help me?

**Lě** has also a plural form, **li**.

## EXAMPLES.

O haka lě nde.	O haka li nde.
What doest thou?	What do ye?

Who art thou?	Ávě o lě a nja.
(Contracted)	Ávě lě nja.
(Literally)	Thou? who.

Who are ye?	Inyi li ba nja.
(Literally)	Ye? they who.

**Ě** is often used at the close of an interrogative phrase or sentence, thereby duplicating the interrogation.

## EXAMPLES.

O ka pát' e lě nja 'gombe-ě [pronounced, gombyě].  
What time will you come?  
(Literally) Thou wilt come, it? what time?

O vahaka li nja jângá-ě [pronounced, jângwě].  
What kind do you want?  
(Literally) Ye want? what kind?

## SPECIMEN OF TRANSLATION.

(LESSON FROM THE BENGA PRIMER.)

Matt. 14:24-31.

Krais a tamwaka o manga.

*Christ He walking on the sea.*

Na kolu, bato ba diyaki na Jisu Krais;

*At evening, people they were with Jesus Christ:*ka bâ - ba dika mâ o he, ka bâ - ba  
*then them-they left Him on the land, and them-they*

vala o manga na 'lende.

*went on the sea in a boat.*

E ka bweyak' ivititi. Ka manga ma linguwa.

*It then seizing darkness. And sea it raged.*Upupe u vungaka na ngudi. Ka bâ bēhēpi ba  
*Wind it blew with strength. And them all they*yēnē Jisu a tamwaka o manga, a vaka piēlē na  
*saw Jesus he walking on sea, he coming near to*'lende. Ba bangaki jângâ iitē. Ka mâ - a vâ  
*boat. They feared fear much. And Him-he spoke*na bâ, na, O bangakeni; a te 'mba. Ka Pitē  
*to them, thus, Ye not fear; he is me. Then Peter*a vâ, na, Upangiyi, ipē a nd' âvë, langwakia  
*he spoke, thus, Lord, if he is thee, tell to*'mba na mbi vake o âvë - o jadi o miba. Ka  
*me that I may come to thee-thou unto on water. And*

Mâ - a vâ, na, Vaka. Ka Pitë a huba  
*Him-he said, thus, Come. Then Peter he descended*

o 'lende o 'vala o Jisu a jadi  
*from boat in coming to Jesus he unto.*

O mâ-a yënëkidi manga ma ka bevaka n'  
*When him-he saw sea it was fouled with*  
 •upupe, ka mâ-a banga jângâ iitë. Ekæ nd' e  
*wind, then him-he feared fear much. This is it*  
 pangaki mâ o hinga; ka mâ-a vâ, na, Upangiye,  
*made him to sink; then him-he said, thus, Lord,*  
 yongakë 'mba. Ka Jisu a hambid' enâ 'aju,  
*save me. Then Jesus he reached forth hand his,*  
 ka Mâ - a bweyia mâ, ka Mâ - a tata mâ  
*then Him-he took hold on him, then Him-he kept him*  
 bwam'. Ka Jisu a betë o 'lende; bâ bēhēpi  
*well. Then Jesus He went up into boat; them all*  
 ba yënëki mbya 'nënë na yënë Mâ.  
*they saw gladness great with seeing Him.*

Moto uēhēpi a kalakiye, A! Upangiye, yongakë  
*Person each he let pray, O! Lord, save*

'mba. Kabojana o 'bē n' upâkwē kabo  
*me. For you are not with another except*

Jisu a ka yongë, na Mâ - a tata ilina jamë.  
*Jesus he will save, and Him-he keep soul mine.*



## THE LORD'S PRAYER.

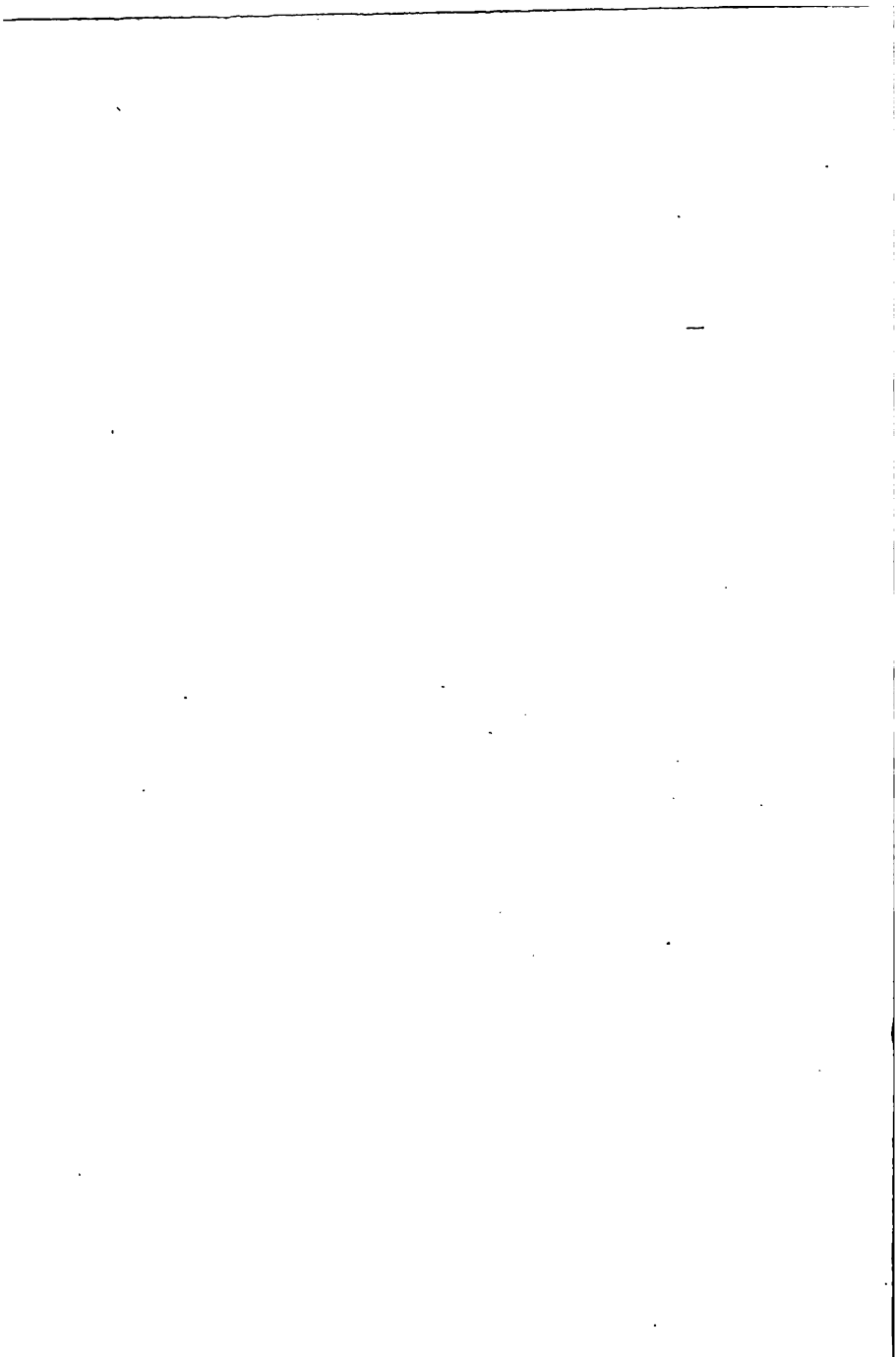
Hangw' ahu a jad' oba, Dina jávě i diyake hole. Ipangiya jávě i vake. Upango 'muávě u hamake o he, ka m' u jad' oba. Věké hwě o buhwa beja bea buhwa bohuhu. Na nâvě o ka iyakidě hwě mabe mahu pani ka hwě-ho iyakidě bá-ba hakě hwě bo-be. O valakidě hwě o iyějudwě, ndi vëngëkidě hwě oviya bobe. Kabojana ipangiya, na ngudi, n' iven-da be nd' ibeávě o 'gombe eëhëpi. Amën.





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